

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, November 22, 2012

FRAGILE TRUCE

JOSEF FEDERMAN

KARIN LAUB

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

— A cease-fire agreement between Israel and the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers took effect Wednesday night, bringing an end to eight days of the fiercest fighting in years and possibly signaling a new era of relations between the bitter enemies.

The Egyptian-sponsored deal delivered key achievements for all involved. It promised to halt years of Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel



The moon illuminates Israelis standing on a hill at the Israeli town of Sderot, overlooking the Gaza Strip, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012, shortly after a cease-fire is announced between Israel and Hamas.

(AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)

and ease border closings that have stifled Gaza's economy, and it affirmed the emergence of Egypt's new Islamist government as a key player in a changing region. But vague language in the agreement and deep hostility between the combatants made it far from certain that the bloodshed would end.

Continued on Page 10



Revelers enjoy the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City, featuring Charlie Brown. More than 3 million people attend the event that also unfolds in front of a TV audience of 50 million. The Aruba Today wishes all of our readers and sponsors a Happy Thanksgiving, and we hope you enjoy our special Thanksgiving Holiday selection of news on pages 2-5, as well as our Local Thanksgiving Guide on page 13, highlighting the island's very best places to feast and have fun on this special holiday: Enjoy!

(AP Photo/Jeff Christensen)

Offering second chance, Obama pardons Thanksgiving turkey

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama pardoned two turkeys in an annual White House rite on Wednesday, saying he wanted to offer the birds a second chance before the American holiday of Thanksgiving.

"They say life is full of second chances, and this Nov. 1 couldn't agree more with that sentiment," a smiling Obama said in one of several lighthearted references to his re-election this month to a second term.

Cobbler, the newly designated national turkey, and his alternate, Gobbler, received a reprieve.

"The American people have spoken, and these birds are moving forward!" Obama said in a reference to his campaign slogan of "Forward." Obama noted that Cobbler and Gobbler were selected by the American people, who cast their votes for the na-

tional Thanksgiving turkey on the White House Facebook page.

Accompanied by daughters Sasha and Malia, Obama waved his hand

over Cobbler in a vaguely religious "dispensation," then laughed as the bird

gobbled loudly. Obama and Sasha petted the turkey. Malia did not.

"Congratulations Cobbler. You're going to have a great life," Obama said. The 19-week-old, 40-pound (18-kilogram) turkeys are from Virginia. They will live at George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, along with last year's birds, Liberty and Peace.

Thanks to the American people, "the only Cobbler that will be on the plates" of a Thanksgiving dinner is a pie, Obama said. On a more serious note, Obama asked Americans to remember those in the Northeast who lost their homes, possessions and loved ones to Hurricane Sandy. Obama, who toured New York and New Jersey after the storm, said he has seen much destruction "but I have yet to find a broke spirit." The tradition of pardoning a Thanksgiving turkey at the White House started with President John F. Kennedy in 1963. □



President Barack Obama, with daughters Sasha, center, and Malia, right, carries on the Thanksgiving tradition of saving a turkey from the dinner table with a "presidential pardon," at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012. After the ceremony, "Cobbler" will head to George Washington's historic home in Virginia to be part of the "Christmas at Mount Vernon" exhibition. National Turkey Federation Chairman Steve Willardsen is at left.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Thanksgiving travelers grateful to hit the road

JASON KEYSER
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Feeling the pinch of the sluggish economic recovery, many Americans setting out on the nation's annual Thanksgiving holiday migration had to sacrifice summer vacations, rely on relatives for airfare or scour the Web for travel deals to ensure they made it home.

Airlines struggling to save on jet fuel and other expenses have cut the number of flights, leading to a jump in airfares. Those driving face high gas prices and rising tolls. Now, with talk of the nation sliding off a "fiscal cliff" come January, many travelers said they're accepting that sacrifices for pricey holiday journeys have become the norm.

economy, the travel forecast for Thanksgiving week suggested a slight upward nudge as people and businesses recover slowly from the 2007-09 recession in which Americans lost nearly a quarter of their wealth. Around 43.6 million Americans were expected to journey 50 miles (80 kilometers) or more between Wednesday and Sunday, just a 0.7 percent increase from last year, according to AAA's yearly Thanksgiving travel analysis. After a couple years of healthy post-recession growth, this year's numbers suggested it will take a stronger economy to lift travel demand significantly, the travel organization said.

More people are driving, fewer are flying and the



Cars fill the highway the day before Thanksgiving, in San Diego.

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull)



Gelli Ann Dayrit, 19, sleeps while waiting for a bus at Union Station in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

"You become immune to it, I guess," said Chris Zukowski, as he hugged his wife and three children goodbye at Chicago's O'Hare Airport and lamented he could not afford to join them on the holiday trip to New Jersey. Weather was also upsetting some travel plans. Dense fog in the Chicago area forced the cancellation of 90 inbound and outbound flights at the city's two airports Wednesday morning, according to flightstats.com. More than 400 other flights were delayed at the city's O'Hare and Midway airports. The fog was expected to lift as the day progressed.

If the nation's travel patterns are any kind of barometer for the state of the

average distance traveled was expected to be nearly 17 percent — or about 120 miles (193 kilometers) — shorter than a year ago, it said. As car ownership declines among younger Americans, many of those hitting the road were jumping onto buses.

"I can't afford to own a car; it's too expensive," said 21-year-old Kayla Sprague of Minneapolis. She was setting off on a 235-mile (378-kilometer) bus trip to Fargo, North Dakota. From there, her parents would be driving her the rest of the way to a family gathering. Army Pfc. Jordan Clark, of Biloxi, Mississippi, said he was only able to fly because relatives pooled their resources to buy his ticket. □

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*Manning Family Tradition:***In backyard Thanksgiving football, almost anything goes****SAM BORDEN**

© 2012 New York Times

If food is what divides us on Thanksgiving – and who doesn't have strong feelings on issues like whether stuffing goes in the bird or out? – then football is surely what brings us together.

It is simple: We all play. We all slip on sneakers and sweatshirts and slide outside, battling the elements or arthritis or what feels like enough acid in our stomachs to burn a hole through the refrigerator door.

Despite all that, we go. It

is understood; we must put down our slice of pumpkin pie in order to pick up our annual slice of Americana. Everyone has a story about his game. A few weeks back, I was trying to tell Steve Weatherford, the New York Giants' punter, about how I caught a desperation, final-play-of-the-game heave from my father-in-law for a touchdown to cap our Turkey Bowl in 2004.

I could barely see the ball in the dusk. The wind was whipping at gale-force ve-

locity. My wife's cousin was leaping alongside me. And I had to tiptoe in front of a car to make the catch lest I brush up against it and be declared out of bounds.

"Remember how Mario Manningham danced along the sideline in the Super Bowl last season?" I asked Weatherford excitedly. It was that glorious. Suddenly, Weatherford – who had been politely trying to stay awake – perked up. He grew up in rural Indiana and was intrigued.

"Cars?" he said. "That

wasn't an issue for us. I lived on a farm and so we played on a big field cut out of the corn. If you hit the corn, you were out of bounds. Simple."

The biggest concern in

25- or 30-yard line, so until you got past it on your drive you really felt like you were still pinned deep."

Beyond the intricacies of the playing surface, though, most issues involv-



The home of Archie Manning, where Eli, Peyton and Cooper Manning played football in the front yard in New Orleans, Nov. 20, 2012. In backyard Thanksgiving football, everyone plays, the car (or corn) is out of bounds, the quarterback can't run and you can't call the Statue of Liberty play too often.

(Cheryl Gerber/The New York Times)

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Weatherford's game, he said, was the size of the field. "We had acres," he said. "I'm not kidding. Acres."

He made a gagging motion. "It was really, really hard to play if you'd already eaten."

So they had too much space. Many have too little, squeezing in snaps on a city street or running fly patterns beyond the neighbor's trash cans.

In our game, we have either a Toyota (bad) or a rock garden (worse) serving as a not-so-subtle reminder that this patch of greenery is a football field but once a year.

Eli Manning can relate. Growing up in New Orleans, his family home in the Garden District had a concrete walkway splicing the front yard from the edge of the lawn up to the front door.

Cooper Manning, the eldest of the family's three boys, explained that the path was both a mental and physical barrier.

"There was sort of a step down to it so you really had to watch your footwork there or you could tear up your ankle," he said.

"Also, it sort of came across the field around I guess the

ing Thanksgiving games are basic. Participation is always a concern and policies run the gamut.

Weatherford said everyone – girls, boys and even the occasional dog – bounced around on his family's turf. Our house rule requires involvement from anyone in attendance, with placement on injured reserve allowed only for those who are pregnant. (Even Grandma has a referee's shirt and a whistle.)

At the Mannings' game though, breaking on to the hallowed ground was slightly more difficult. Despite going on to win two Super Bowls and being the game's Most Valuable Player both times, Eli – seven years younger than Cooper and five younger than his brother Peyton – could not get snaps at quarterback in his own front yard.

Eli and Peyton, of course, will be taking it easy on Thanksgiving, resting up for their own games this weekend.

But Cooper will play, just like the rest of us. He knows. It is what we do.

Football in the yard on Thanksgiving: However you feel about stuffing, at least we all can agree on that. □

Black Friday and Beyond:

Retailers to make holiday shopping cheap and easy

By MAE ANDERSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — This holiday season, Burger King won't be the only place where you can have it your way.

It used to be enough for stores to promise discounts up to 70 percent to lure shoppers during the busy holiday period. But the ease of ordering online and the sluggish economy changed that. Americans are no longer impressed by discounts alone. Now they want their shopping just like their fast food: not only cheap, but convenient too. That means they're no longer afraid to walk away from the cashmere sweater with the perfect fit if the store is crowded. They're unwilling to buy those suede pumps in just the right shade of blue if shipping costs extra. And they cringe at the prospect of carrying around paper coupons; they'd rather pull them up electronically on smartphones.

Retailers from Wal-Mart to Macy's are doing everything they can to make it easier for more finicky shoppers to spend during the holidays. Several are opening on Thanksgiving Day. Some are offering free layaway and shipping. Many are matching in-store

prices with cheaper online deals. Others are allowing shoppers to buy online and pick up their merchandise in stores.

It's the latest effort by stores to court shoppers like Patty Edwards of Bellevue, Wash. Four years ago, Edwards made all of her holiday purchases online through Amazon because she thought it was the easiest way to shop. But this year, she plans to go elsewhere because stores are offering more shipping options.

"Now I'm not necessarily tied to Amazon," said Edwards, a retail analyst and principal at investment firm Trutina Financial. "I can go to Nordstrom, Saks or Target and have stuff available to pick up. It's a pretty simple process. That wasn't the case four or five years ago." The have-it-your-way approach is partly a response to fear. Merchants are concerned that shoppers will spend less freely this season because of worries about high unemployment and a package of tax increases and spending cuts known as the "fiscal cliff," which will take effect in January unless Congress passes a budget deal. The changes also come as the growth of smartphones and tablet computers has made it easier to browse and buy

with the touch of a fingertip. That puts pressure on brick-and-mortar retailers, which count on holiday shopping for up to 40 percent of their annual revenue, to

4.1 percent this year, below last year's 5.6 percent growth. But the online part of that is expected to rise 17 percent, according to research firm comScore.



People line up outside Toys R Us as Black Friday sales begin in Royal Palm Beach, Fla. If the economic downturn has taught retailers anything, it's that a 50 percent off sale isn't enough to lure finicky American shoppers into stores these days, so this holiday season, shoppers will find that retailers are doing all kinds of things to make it easier for them to part with their money.

(AP Photo/Rachel Mumney)

get shoppers into stores. It's becoming an increasingly difficult feat: The National Retail Federation estimates that overall sales in November and December will rise

"Retailers have to do a little more to grow sales this year," said Frank Badillo, a senior economist at consultancy Kantar Retail.

This isn't the first time stores

have had to up the ante. As Americans cut back on spending during the economic downturn, merchants ramped up their already deep discounting.

Shoppers became addicted to the ever bigger sales, and they began fleeing to online retailers, which can offer much cheaper prices because they don't have the same overhead costs to operate brick-and-mortar locations. To better compete, brick-and-mortar stores concluded that they would have to replicate their online rivals' formula. Shopping needs to be cheap and easy, they figured. So stores began trying new ways to make shopping more convenient last year, such as free shipping and expanded hours.

This holiday season, they've expanded the scope and scale of those incentives. Stores often open in the wee hours of the morning on the day after Thanksgiving Day, which is typically the biggest shopping day of the year. □

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RISE OF THE GUARDIANS		RISE OF THE GUARDIANS	
daily:	4:45 7:00	daily:	4:15 6:30 8:45
matinee:	12:00 2:15	matinee:	2:00
late show:		late show:	11:00
NEW		NEW	
SP		SP	
PG		PG	
LIFE OF PI		LIFE OF PI	
daily:	5:30 8:15	daily:	5:15 8:30
matinee:	12:00 2:45	matinee:	2:15
late show:	11:00	late show:	11:15
NEW		NEW	
SP		SP	
PG		PG	
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 2		THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 2	
daily:	5:15 8:00 9:15	daily:	5:30 8:15 8:45
matinee:	12:15 2:45	matinee:	2:30
late show:	11:00 11:45	late show:	11:15 11:30
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SKYFALL		SKYFALL	
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matinee:		matinee:	
late show:	11:00	late show:	
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Sandy victims prepare for subdued holiday

MEGHAN BARR
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It will be a subdued Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday for U.S. families hit hard by last month's Superstorm Sandy. But they will not be left to fend for themselves.

Restaurants are donating meals, strangers and churches are opening their doors and people from across the nation have sent an outpouring of donations.

Near the coast in New York City, Ray Marten is thankful his two children are alive. At the height of the storm, he saw flames from burning homes dancing over the floodwaters. The three of them narrowly escaped just before the blaze engulfed their house. A neighbor in a scuba suit materialized out of the darkness and towed Marten's 13-year-old daughter to safety on a surfboard.

A restaurant in New Jersey is donating a catered Thanksgiving dinner for his family and other displaced relatives at his mother's overcrowded home, where

they are staying.

"We won't be sitting at a dining room table. We'll be eating off of paper plates," said Marten's wife, Linda. "But at least we'll be to-

dy, the storm-relief offshoot of the Occupy Wall Street movement, will host a Thanksgiving dinner in Manhattan.

Jennifer Kaufman of Wash-



Marge Gatti looks at a photograph she was able to salvage, while standing in her bedroom in her home, which was damaged by Superstorm Sandy, in the Staten Island borough of New York. Of all things material, Gatti has nothing. And yet, on Thanksgiving Day, she will be counting her blessings this year. "My sons are alive. They were trapped here," says Gatti, 67, who lived in this beige-colored home down the block from the Atlantic Ocean for 32 years.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

gether."

New York City and Macy's have set aside 5,000 bleacher seats along the Thanksgiving Day Parade route for families affected by Sandy. Occupy San-

ington Township, New Jersey, started a Facebook page called "A Place at the Table" that matches willing Thanksgiving hosts with families who have been displaced.

"No one should eat alone on Thanksgiving," Kaufman said.

In the the mildewed home of Amin and Rachael Alhadad on New York's Staten Island, the stove is still caked with mud, and they run a borrowed generator for a few hours every night to keep themselves and their four children warm. The Alhadads say they have nowhere else to go, no family or friends to rely on. And they refuse to live in a shelter. "They keep asking, 'Are we going to have turkey?'" said Rachael Alhadad, indicating her sons, ages 14 and 15, who were playing restlessly on their smartphones. "Nope. We can't." But for Marge Gatti of Staten Island, the kindness of strangers has been almost too much to handle. There was the Australian man who raised \$35,000 and handed out gift packages on the street.

An elderly rich man pulled up in a black Mercedes and peeled off \$100 bills for everybody on the block. Dozens of girls cleaned debris off her front lawn. □

US BRIEFS

Woman pleads not guilty in son and girl's deaths

WHEATON, Illinois (AP) — A U.S. woman has pleaded not guilty in the stabbing deaths of her 7-year-old son and a 5-year-old girl she was babysitting. Polish immigrant Elzbieta Plackowska's stood silently as her public defender entered pleas on her behalf during a brief hearing Wednesday in Illinois. Plackowska has told investigators that the children had been jumping on the bed at the girl's home, and she ordered them to pray, then stabbed them dozens of times as they begged for their lives. The 40-year-old told investigators she killed her son because she was upset with her husband. She said she killed the girl because she was a witness to her son's death. □

NY judge rejects 9/11 suit against United Airlines

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City judge has rejected claims in a lawsuit that United Airlines can be held responsible for the collapse of a third World Trade Center building after the twin towers fell in the Sept. 11 attacks. A federal judge said Wednesday that the airline was not responsible for the collapse of 7 World Trade Center. Terrorists flew two commercial jets into the trade center towers that day in 2001. Some crash debris pierced the facade of 7 World Trade Center, which collapsed later that day. The corporate entity that owns 7 World Trade Center sued various aviation defendants, including United. The judge said United could not have foreseen the chain of events that led to the building's collapse. □

US drought worsens after weeks of improvement

JIM SUHR
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The worst U.S. drought in decades has deepened again after more than a month of encouraging reports of slowly improving conditions, a drought-tracking consortium said Wednesday, as scientists struggled for an explanation other than a simple lack of rain.

While more than half of the continental U.S. has been in a drought since summer, rain storms had appeared to be easing the situation week by week since late September. But that

promising run ended with Wednesday's weekly U.S. Drought Monitor report, which showed increases in the portion of the country in drought and the severity of it.

The report showed that 60.1 percent of the lower 48 states were in some form of drought as of Tuesday, up from 58.8 percent the previous week. The amount of land in extreme or exceptional drought — the two worst classifications — increased from 18.3 percent to 19.04 percent.

The Drought Monitor's map tells the story, with dark

red blotches covering the center of the nation and portions of Texas and the Southeast as an indication of where conditions are the most intense.

Those areas are surrounded by others in lesser stages of drought, with only the Northwest, Florida and a narrow band from New England south to Mississippi escaping.

A federal meteorologist cautioned that Wednesday's numbers shouldn't be alarming, saying that while drought usually subsides heading into winter, the Drought Monitor report

merely reflects a week without rain in a large chunk of the country.

"The places that are getting precipitation, like the Pacific Northwest, are not in drought, while areas that need the rainfall to end the drought aren't getting it," added Richard Heim, a meteorologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center. "I would expect the drought area to expand again" by next week since little rain is forecast in the Midwest in coming days. □



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US Gen. Allen resumes command duty in Afghanistan

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gen. John Allen has returned to

Kabul to resume his duties as the top U.S. and NATO commander of the war in Afghanistan, more than a



U.S. Gen. John Allen, top commander of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, during an interview with The Associated Press in Kabul, Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Musadeq Sadeq)

week after the Pentagon announced it is investigating potentially "inappropriate" correspondence between the four-star general and a woman linked to the former CIA chief David Petraeus sex scandal.

Lt. Col. Les Carroll, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, said Allen returned to work Wednesday.

Allen's office in Kabul issued a brief statement saying he is happy to be back in time to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with his troops.

"The Defense Department inspector general's inves-

tigation into certain communications by Gen. Allen continues," it said. "Out of respect for that process, Gen. Allen will continue to refrain from commenting on those matters that may fall within the scope of the investigation."

Allen had been in Washington when news of his email correspondence with Florida socialite Jill Kelley surfaced last Monday. He was expected to testify before a Senate committee last Thursday on his nomination to become the commander of U.S. European Command and the top NATO general. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has put that

nomination on hold.

Well before the FBI referred the Allen emails to the Pentagon's chief lawyer last week, the Obama administration had nominated another four-star Marine, Gen. Joseph Dunford, to replace Allen in Kabul. The Senate has not yet voted on Dunford's nomination. At the time Panetta announced that the Pentagon inspector general is reviewing as many as 30,000 pages of Allen's correspondence with Kelley, the defense chief said he had determined that Allen should remain in command in Kabul, pending the outcome of the probe. □

Gun found in home tied to alleged NY merchant killer

J. DAVID GOODMAN

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NEW YORK — The police said Wednesday that a .22-caliber weapon and several knives had been found in a Brooklyn apartment linked to a man being questioned in the recent killing of three Brooklyn shopkeepers. Shell casings of the same caliber were found at each of the crime scenes, the police said.

At the 67th Precinct station house Wednesday morning, detectives were continuing to question the man, whom the police have referred to as John Doe Duffel Bag and who appears on surveillance video near the scene of the most recent shooting, at a shop on Flatbush Avenue.

"They're going very slowly," said a person with knowledge of the investigation, adding that the man had been cooperative in talking to the police. "They think

he's their guy and they got him in a room, and they want to make sure it comes out right."

The weapon, a .22-caliber rifle that had been "sawed off," was found in the Brooklyn apartment of the man's girlfriend, said the person, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the investigation.

A law enforcement official identified the man as Salvatore Perrone, a Staten Island resident in his early 60s who, like the three victims, worked in the clothing business.

As of Wednesday morning he had not been formally arrested and remained at the precinct house voluntarily, the official said.

The police did not label him as a suspect in the killings.

Perrone had been sought for questioning by the police for two days before he was located. □

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Maine TV news anchors quit on the air

BANGOR, Maine (AP) — Two news co-anchors for a Maine television station surprised viewers and colleagues by quitting on the air, later citing frustration with their management. Cindy Michaels and Tony Consiglio announced their resignations at the end of Tuesday's 6 p.m. newscast on WVII.

The two didn't give specific reasons on the air for their sudden departure. Consiglio said that while they enjoyed reporting the news, "some recent developments have come to our

attention, though, and departing together is the best alternative we can take." Michaels said she and Consiglio were "are very sorry for having to say goodbye for now, but we'll still be around." She plans to pursue a writing career and paint, and Consiglio said he would continue his career "in a different capacity." Their boss said Wednesday they had been on their way out the door anyway. He said he was not surprised by the action they took. "Sometimes people leave before they're officially told

to leave," said Mike Palmer, station vice president and general manager. He declined to discuss issues that may have caused disagreements but said, "There are things that they know."

Michaels, who was the station's news director, said in an email to The Associated Press that there was "a regular un-doing of decisions made by me." She also questioned the station's treatment of political stories and said it did not consider news programming important enough.

WVII and another station Palmer manages, Fox affiliate WFVX, have made headlines before. In 2006, The New York Times reported that Palmer prohibited further stories on global warming after the stations reported from a movie theater where Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth" was opening.

Michaels wrote she had "no clue" she was going to be let go.

She and Consiglio, she wrote, "were Bangor's longest running news team with more than six years on the news together. □



Two news co-anchors for a Maine television station, Cindy Michaels and Tony Consiglio, surprised viewers and colleagues by quitting on the air, later citing frustration with their management. (Handout Photo)

Statue of Liberty, Ellis closed for 2012

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Park Service says the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island will not reopen to visitors this year. Both sites have been closed since Superstorm Sandy hit the region Oct. 29. Clean-up and repairs have been ongoing. The Statue of Liberty itself received little or no damage. The pedestal and base, including the main floor and exhibits upstairs, are OK. But docks, a brick promenade, railings and other facilities on Liberty Island

were damaged.

At Ellis Island, the storm damaged doors, windows and exhibits in the ferry building among other sites.

Park Service spokeswoman Daphne Yun said Wednesday no projected reopening date has been established.

Both the statue and Ellis Island, which served as an entry point for immigrants for a half-century, are among New York's top tourist attractions. □



Twinkies baked goods are displayed for sale at the Hostess Brands' bakery in Denver, Colo. A bankruptcy court judge on Wednesday approved a request by Hostess Brands Inc. to begin winding down its operations.

(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

Hostess has OK to begin winding down business

CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP) — A bankruptcy court judge on Wednesday approved a request by Hostess Brands Inc. to begin winding down its operations.

The ruling came Wednesday after the maker of Twinkies and other snack cakes failed in last-ditch negotiations to end a strike by its second-largest union.

Hostess now has the green light to terminate the jobs of its 18,000 workers without risking legal action, and to sell off its brands.

In court Wednesday, Hostess said it needed to begin the liquidation process quickly to take advantage of outside interest in its brands, which a banker said could fetch up to \$2.4 billion. That's about how much Hostess generates in annual sales.

The banker, Joshua Scherer of Perella Weinberg Partners, told the court that interest in Hostess' brands has come from companies ranging from regional bakers to major national retailers that have long sold Hostess products.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get iconic brands separate from their legacy operators," Scherer said during the bankruptcy-court hearing in White Plains, New York.

Hostess, based in Irving, Texas, also wanted to quickly shutter its business, because has been spending about \$1 million a day in payroll without any income since it halted operations last week.

CEO Gregory Rayburn said the company will send out termination notices to its employees on Wednesday. □

III and facing inquiry, Jackson resigns from Congress

MONICA DAVEY

© 2012 New York Times

Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr., who has received a diagnosis of bipolar disorder and has been under federal investigation, has resigned from Congress.

Aides to House Speaker John Boehner said Wednesday that Jackson sent his office a letter with his intent to resign.

In his hometown, Chicago, and in Washington, the decision puts an end to five months of speculation over the political future of Jackson, a Democrat and the son of the civil rights leader bearing the same name, who had vanished from Congress and public view since June.

Still uncertain for Jackson is how a criminal investigation into his possible use of campaign funds on purchases for his home may turn out. Already, even before word of Jackson's decision began spreading, political figures in Chicago were scrambling for the seat, which Jackson had occupied for nearly two decades and is now expected to be filled through

a special election.

Only a few weeks ago on Election Day, he won 63 percent of the vote in his district on Chicago's South Side and its southern sub-

urbs even as he remained, his representatives said, under treatment for bipolar disorder at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. By a week after Election Day, Jackson had departed from the Mayo Clinic, clinic officials said.

Once talked about as a future U.S. senator or mayor

a House ethics investigation has continued over Jackson's actions in 2008, when he sought an appointment to the Senate seat vacated when Barack Obama won the presidency. As part of an inquiry into actions by former Gov. Rod Blagojevich of Illinois, who is now serving prison time for try-



Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-III.), who has received a diagnosis of bipolar disorder and has been under federal investigation, announced he will resign from Congress on Nov. 21, 2012.

(P.W. Thompson/The New York Times)

ing to sell the appointment to Obama's Senate seat, federal authorities said they learned that a close friend of Jackson had offered large campaign contributions to Blagojevich if Jackson was given the Senate job. Jackson, who has said he was unaware of his friend's offers, has acknowledged hoping to join the Senate but has denied wrongdoing.

In early 2012, even as that ethics investigation went on, Jackson faced a primary challenger, former Rep. Debbie Halvorson,

and ran one of his most active, aggressive campaigns in many years. But by June, Jackson dropped out of public view.

His office initially reported that he was suffering from exhaustion, but his representatives eventually announced that he had been hospitalized for bipolar II depression, a condition that was apparently complicated by a weight loss surgery he had undergone in 2004, his office said, changing the way his body absorbs substances including medication.□



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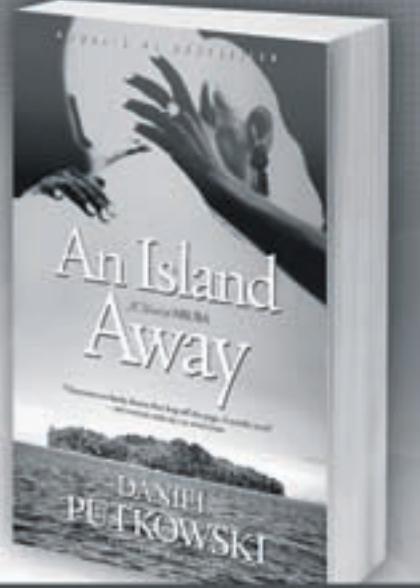
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Cease-fire begins in Gaza

News of the truce, announced in Cairo and reached after furious diplomacy that drew in U.S., U.N., European and regional diplomats, set off ec-

future border arrangement through Egyptian mediators.

"I know there are citizens that expected a wider military operation and it could be that it will be needed. But at this time the right

long made this country a cornerstone of regional stability and peace," Clinton said.

Israel launched its military offensive in Gaza on Nov. 14 in to halt months of renewed rocket fire from Gaza. In a first salvo, it assassinated the Hamas military chief, then bombarded more than 1,500 targets in eight days of airstrikes and artillery attacks. Palestinian militants led by Hamas showered Israel with more than 1,500 rockets, including longer-range weapons that reached as far as Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

The fighting killed 161 Palestinians, including 71 civilians, and forced hundreds of thousands of people on both sides of the border to remain huddled indoors. Five Israelis were killed. It was the worst bloodshed since an Israeli invasion of Gaza four years ago that left hundreds dead.

Under the agreement, Egypt will play a key role in maintaining the peace. The U.S. also pledged engagement. "In the days ahead, the United States will work with partners across the region to consolidate this progress, improve conditions for the people of Gaza, and provide security for the people of Israel," Clinton said at a joint news conference in Cairo with her Egyptian counterpart, Mohammed Kamel Amr.

By agreeing to the cease-fire, both Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers stepped back from the brink of what could have been a full-fledged war. □



In this photo released by the Egyptian Presidency, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, meets with Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, right, in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012. A cease-fire agreement between Israel and the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers took effect Wednesday night, bringing an end to eight days of the fiercest fighting in years and possibly signaling a new era of relations between the bitter enemies.

static celebrations in Gaza, where thousands poured into the streets, firing guns into the air, honking horns and waving Palestinian, Hamas and Egyptian flags. In Israel, small demonstrations were held in communities that were struck by rockets. Protesters said the military should have hit Hamas harder and some held signs demanding security and denouncing "agreements with terrorists."

Leaders on both sides used tough language as they prepared to engage in indirect negotiations on a

thing of the state of Israel is to take this opportunity to reach a continuous cease-fire," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. At a news conference in Cairo, the top Hamas leader in exile, Khaled Mashaal, claimed victory, saying the Israelis "failed in their adventure" and that Israel is "inevitably destined for defeat."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called it "a critical moment for the region."

"Egypt's new government is assuming the responsibility and leadership that has



U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice listening during a news conference at the UN.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

US Ambassador Susan Rice defends Benghazi remarks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice says her early account of the attack that killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya and three other Americans in Benghazi was based on the initial intelligence community assessments and was always subject to review and updates.

She said she respects Republican Sen. John McCain, who has been critical of her,

but says "some of the statements he's made about me have been unfounded, but I look forward to having the opportunity at the appropriate time to discuss all of this with him."

Her comments attributing the attacks to a mob enraged over an anti-Muslim video posted on YouTube were widely denounced by Republicans during the U.S. presidential campaign. The attack came on the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11,

2001 terror attacks on the United States, and her critics said it was clearly a terrorist attack aimed at the anniversary.

The focus has fallen on her because she is a long-time White House insider and is believed to be President Barack Obama's first choice to replace Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is not expected to stay on during his second term.

Rice told reporters outside the U.N. Security Council that "As a senior U.S. diplomat, I agreed to a White House request to appear on the Sunday shows to talk about the full range of national security issues of the day, which at that time were primarily and particularly the protests that were enveloping and threatening many diplomatic facilities, American diplomatic facilities around the world, and Iran's nuclear program." □

Iran's supreme leader stops lawmakers grilling president

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader has stopped the country's parliament from grilling the president over the nation's plummeting currency and economic crisis, the official IRNA news agency reported Wednesday.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei demanded that the parliament drop its plan to grill President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saying such a session would benefit Iran's enemies.

Khamenei and Ahmadinejad have been at odds for months, and it appeared that the president's opponents in parliament were doing the supreme leader's bidding when they summoned him for questioning. Ahmadinejad was hauled before parliament in March, the first time an Iranian president has been questioned by the house. Instead, IRNA quoted Khamenei as issuing an order to the legislature that said, "We demand that the respected representatives not continue" with the summons.

Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, said parliament's concern about the economy was positive, but that questioning the president before

the body "is what enemy seeks," a reference to the West.

are at least partly the result of stiff Western economic sanctions aimed at forcing



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has stopped the country's parliament from grilling the president over the nation's plummeting currency and economic crisis, the official IRNA news agency reported Wednesday.

(Handout Photo)

"The country needs tranquility.

Authorities also need it to carry out their tasks. People also like peace," Khamenei said.

Parliament speaker Ali Larijani wrote to Khamenei accepting his demand and pledging that lawmakers would not pursue the summons further.

Khamenei's move is seen as an attempt to forge unity among leaders as international pressure over Iran's disputed nuclear program grows. The economic crisis and currency crash

Iran to abandon its uranium enrichment project.

The West suspects Iran is pursuing a nuclear weapons program, a charge Iran denies.

Earlier this month, lawmakers voted to summon Ahmadinejad over the country's currency collapse. He was supposed to appear in an open session of parliament in early December. On Wednesday the rial traded at 28,500 to the dollar. It was about 11,000 to the dollar in mid-2011. In early October, it jumped to more than 36,000 rials. □

Greek PM presses for deal on loan

ELENA BECATOROS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece reacted with dismay Wednesday after European finance ministers failed to agree to release vital rescue loans, with the prime minister warning that the stakes are higher than just his debt-ridden country's future.

After 12 hours of debate, finance ministers from the 17 European Union countries that use the euro, together with the International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank, had no deal on Greece's financing. The impasse follows another fruitless meeting last week and highlights the depth

of divisions over how to handle the country's huge debt problem without reaching deeper into the pockets of their own taxpayers.

"Greece has done what it had to and what it had committed to doing," Prime Minister Antonis Samaras said. "Our partners, along with the IMF, also must do what they have undertaken."

The ministers are to convene again next Monday. But Greece is already living on borrowed time. Faced with €5 billion (\$6.4 billion) in maturing treasury bills that it couldn't pay last week, Athens issued more short-term debt to cover the gap

and tide it over until it can receive its bailout funds. But most of that was in the form of four-week treasury bills, meaning the country will face the same situation next month — when it has more than €7 billion (\$9 billion) in redemptions — unless the loans come through.

"It is not just the future of our country, but the stability of the entire eurozone that depends on the successful completion of this effort in the coming days," Samaras said.

"Whatever technical difficulties (there might be) in finding a technical solution, do not excuse any ... delay," he said. □

Thanksgiving Buffet Dinner

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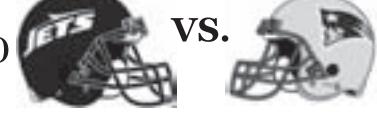


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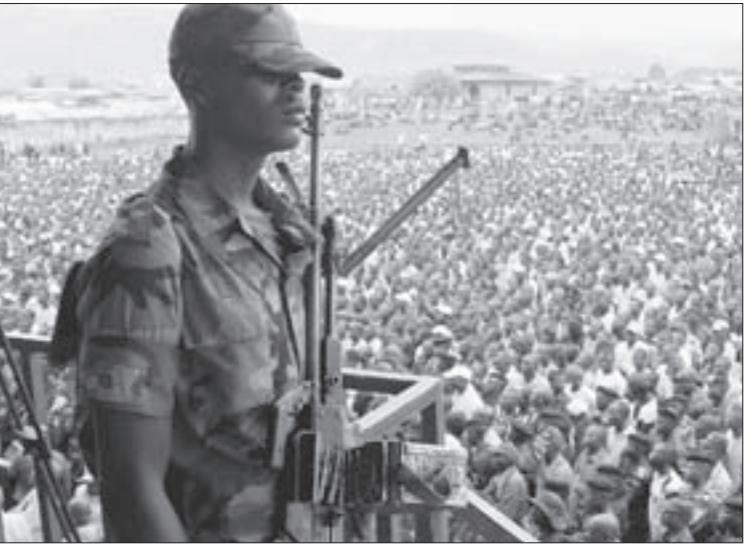
UN report:

Rwanda commanding Congo rebel force

ALEXANDRA OLSON
 PETER JAMES SPIELMANN

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Rwandan military is commanding and supporting the rebel force that overtook a major city in eastern Congo this week, a United Nations report released Wednesday said. The report also said Uganda is providing more subtle but nonetheless decisive backing support to the M23 rebels. The report's release, just one day after the violent takeover of Goma, is sure to increase pressure on the international community to confront the two eastern African countries over their role in neighboring Congo's conflict. Both Rwanda and Uganda have repeatedly denied supporting the M23 movement and have faced little international criticism over the allegations. The highly anticipated report from the U.N. Group of Experts said both Rwanda and Uganda have "cooperated to support the creation and expansion of the political branch of M23 and have consistently advocated on behalf of the rebels. M23 and its allies include six sanctioned individuals,



A soldier from the M23 rebel group looks on as thousands of Congolese people listen during an M23 rally, in Goma, eastern Congo, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012.

(AP Photo/Marc Hofer)

some of whom reside in or regularly travel to Rwanda and Uganda."

The document said that Rwanda is funneling weapons and providing direct troops reinforcements to the M23 rebels. It is facilitating recruitment and encouraging desertions from the Congolese armed forces.

"The de facto chain of command of M23 includes (rebel leader) Gen. Bosco Ntaganda and culminates with the Minister of Defence of Rwanda, Gen. James Kabarebe," the report said.

The report puts the U.N. in an uncomfortable position. Rwanda has been elected by the U.N. General Assembly to serve a two-year position on the 15-member Security Council beginning in January, which will complicate efforts by the council to come to grips with the country's intervention in Congo. The Security Council voted unanimously Tuesday to impose travel bans, assets freezes and other sanctions on the leaders of M23 and called for an end to external support for the rebellion, but without naming Rwanda or Uganda. □

Irish arrest 113 in triad gang raids

DUBLIN (AP) — Ireland's police force says its officers have arrested 113 suspected drug dealers and seized five marijuana growing facilities in the nation's biggest-ever crackdown on triad drug-trafficking gangs. Police say most of those arrested during raids on 236 properties Tuesday and

Wednesday are Chinese and Vietnamese nationals involved in growing, smuggling and selling marijuana in Ireland. They say many are connected to the biggest Hong Kong-based gang, Wo Shing Wo, and are being directed by triad chieftains based in neighboring Britain.

Most of those arrested are expected to be arraigned this week on charges including drug trafficking, robbery, burglary, arms possession and handling stolen goods. The five marijuana-growing operations involved 4,200 plants with an estimated street value of €3.5 million (\$4.5 million). □

Egypt: protesters torch Al-Jazeera Cairo offices

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian protesters firebombed one of the offices of satellite broadcaster Al-Jazeera on Wednesday and attacked a police chief who tried to negotiate an end to three days of violent protests in central Cairo.

The protesters hit the TV studio overlooking Tahrir Square with firebombs, engulfing it in flames. In a televised interview from inside the gutted office, reporter Ahmed el-Dassouki said around 300 protesters approached the building before noon, shouting obscenities. He said they set the place on fire, stormed the building and looted the studio. "They accuse our network of being biased and not objective," he said. Many protesters had accused the channel of bias in favor of the country's most powerful political

force, the Muslim Brotherhood.

After the attack, a crowd assaulted Cairo Police Chief Osama el-Saghir, who went to Tahrir Square to diffuse the situation, a security official said. Protesters drove El-Saghir from the square with punches and kicks, the official added, speaking anonymously because he was not authorized to brief reporters. Fire crews rushed to put out the office blaze as dozens of onlookers watched smoke and flames shoot from the balcony. Interior Minister Ahmed Gamal Eddin said police had arrested 118 protesters since clashes broke out Monday. "We have more than once restrained ourselves... and our forces have been wounded, but we will not stay with our hands tied or else people will hold us responsible," he said during a press conference in Cairo. □

Benghazi's security director assassinated outside home

KAREEM FAHIM

© 2012 New York Times

CAIRO — A senior Libyan security official was assassinated outside his home in the eastern city of Benghazi, officials said Wednesday, the same city where the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans were killed at their diplomatic compound in September. The Libyan official's death was the latest in a series of mysterious killings that have raised fears about the country's precarious postwar security. The official, Faraj Mohammed al-Drissi, who had held the post of Benghazi's security director for only a few weeks, was fatally shot

late Tuesday night as he was returning from work, said Wanis al-Sharif, a local Interior Ministry official. About 10 p.m., a Mitsubishi Lancer pulled up on al-Drissi's street. Three men got out and opened fire, al-Sharif said, adding that the motive for the killing was unknown.

The killing was the latest blow for Benghazi, which has staggered since armed men attacked U.S. intelligence and diplomatic buildings in September, killing Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three members of his staff in an assault that upended the city's fragile power structure. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Thanksgiving on Aruba: All Feast and No Famine!

On Aruba, there are always so many fantastic ways to spend holidays with loved ones and friends, and with

an elegant Thanksgiving buffet served with all the fixin's; The Westin Resort, hosting a truly classic American

taurant, Tango Argentine Grill, Costa Riba Restaurant & Bar, The Pelican's Nest, The Promenade Restau-

markets: Super Food, Kong Fui, Ling & Sons, and Unicasa.

After your meal, to hit the

\$1,000 in cash prizes, as well as fabulous shopping, dining and entertainment at the newly opened Shops at Alhambra Casino! Additionally, Trop Club and Casino will offer \$1,500 in cash and prizes, a Blackjack tournament with \$500 in cash prizes, and a chance at the Hot Seat with another \$1,000 in prizes! Other Casinos to try your luck at include the Radisson Casino, Excelsior Casino, The Copa Cabana Casino at the Hyatt Resort, and the Crystal Casino and Seaport Casino at the Renaissance Resorts!

Great ways to get out and play together include excursions and activities with Red Sail Sports, Bushiri Karting Speedway Kart Rentals, Pelican Adventures, the Aruba Ostrich Farm, Roberto's Watersports, and Aqua Windie's, or take in a Box Office Hit at the Caribbean Cinemas Megaplex 8 at Palm Beach Plaza, or The Cinemas at the Renaissance, Paseo Herencia, or the Crystal Theater!

And of course check out all the activities at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, featuring super food and fun for the everyone!

Happy Thanksgiving from the Aruba Today family! □



A holiday-ready plate of roast turkey stuffed with bacon, chicken liver, shallots and black olives.

(Francesco Tonelli/The New York Times)

today being Thanksgiving, we would like to introduce to you the most fun and exciting, and of course most decadent and sumptuous choices on the island to be thankful for!

For dinner with family and friends, there are literally hundreds of excellent choices on the island. Restaurants featuring more traditional Thanksgiving-style offerings, entertainment and specials for today include: The Radisson Aruba, featuring a world-class buffet in their elegant ballroom; The Hard Rock Café, featuring a rockin' specially-priced Thanksgiving menu; La Vista at the Aruba Marriott, featuring

style Thanksgiving Day, offering not only a decadent dinner buffet, but also live NFL Football coverage with free snacks during the game; Mulligans and Windows on Aruba, both featuring awesome Turkey Day fare; and Aqua Grill, featuring both the traditional turkey, served Roulade style, but also of course several fabulous seafood choices as well!

Looking for dinner tonight but would like an alternative to traditional Thanksgiving fare? The choices are almost endless. The Aruba Today recommends dining at all of these top-rated restaurants: 5 Burgers Aruba, Sawasdee Thai Res-

rant, Gasparito Restaurant & Art Gallery, J.H Yee's Asian Bistro, Driftwood Restaurant, CILO Restaurant, Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill, Bavaria German Restaurant, Wacky Wahoo's, Buccaneer Restaurant, Amazonia Churrascaria, The Blue Lobster Restaurant, House of Japan & Yalla Yalla, Le Bistro, Pizza Bob's, Baci, Azull and Pago Pago, Scala Restaurant, JC's Sports Bar & Grill, Grand Victoria, White Cuisine, and Waka Waka Adventure Café and Cantina!

Planning to prepare your own Thanksgiving Dinner or NFL Football Party? Find all that you need for your events at these fine super-

Casinos like a high roller, check out The Alhambra Casino, which will offer Bonus Bingo Thursday with



Thanksgiving condiments, including a dish of sweet-and-sour onions, spicy cranberry-apple relish and pickled carrot slices.

(Evan Sung/The New York Times)



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Wine Lovers at a Red & Black Party at the Sand Bar

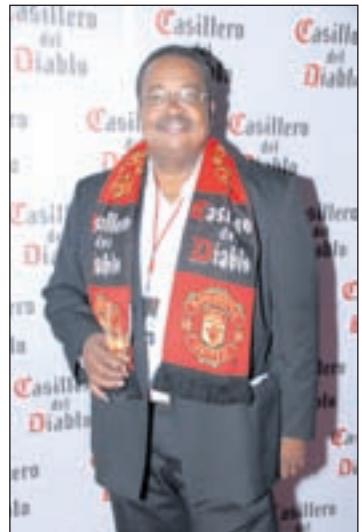


Palm Beach – The Sand Bar previewed its many fun features the night before its official opening to a crowd of wine lovers, at the event orchestrated by Romar

Trading and Casillero del Diablo. The elegant crowd enjoyed a presentation of the most delightful wines of Casillero del Diablo, paired with de-

lectable specialties by chef Kelly, who was in charge of pleasing everyone's palate.

During the evening, entertained by duo the Untouch-



Pictures here, images from the excellent event at the brand new Sand Bar, a cool and hip hangout on Palm Beach, adjacent to Brickell Bay Beach Resort. Wine Artists Clive Faustin, Wine Portfolio and Account Team Leader at Romar Trading expressed great satisfaction in regards to the event excellent turn out, the outstanding food, the state of the art decor and naturally, the delicious wines! □

Beauty On The Beach

Katiuka Dominguez

She is from Caracas, Venezuela. She is on her honeymoon, and she is enjoying her first visit to the island.

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Benefiting the Wit Gele Kruis and Aruba's elders:

Cas di Glas organizing an awesome fundraiser!

The organization of Cas di Glas and Wit Gele Kruis Aruba are super proud to be able to introduce to you the three deejays that will be locked up in the House of Glass from December 12 - 16. These three courageous people are stars, having committed themselves to four days of broadcasting, 24 hours a day, and in an effort to live a healthier life, only drink fruit and vegetable juices during this time. Cas di Cas proudly presents: Jenifer Vargas of Radio Caliente, Suhail Reyes of Power FM, and veteran Cas di Glas occupant, DJ 101 of Cool FM.

The three deejays will try and generate as much money for Wit Gele Kruis as they can; this year's charity is the elderly of Aruba, an often forgotten, but ever-growing group of citizens. Wit Gele Kruis will use

the money that is donated to buy wheelchairs, beds, crutches and walkers for its rental store, but also for a day care center for the elderly.

Cas di Glas is a fundraising event, which will be held at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall; the event starts off with Flora's Santa Claus FUN WALK, A 5K walk of participants, all dressed as Santa Clauses. Registration for the walk and costume is possible at Idefre and at Flora.

After the FUN WALK a whirlwind of performances of local and international artists will keep the public entertained during the evening hours. The deejays each will try and get money by posing a challenge on the Wii - DJ 101 is a tennis crack, Jenifer can dance (oh boy, can she dance!) and Suhail is a wiz on the baseball field. So challenge the deejays



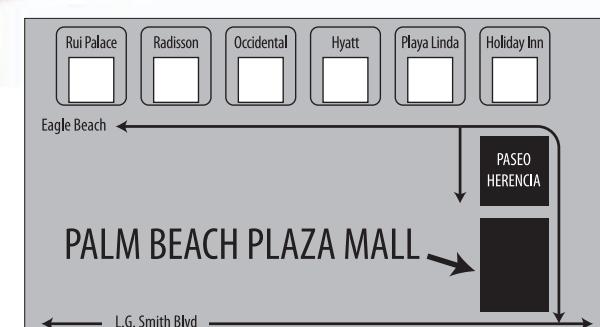
and play on a big screen! During Cas di Glas a most unusual opportunity will be offered: dinner in the sky! Dinner will be served to a select group of guests, who will be seated 6 meters

above the ground. Cocktails or tea parties in the sky are also possibilities. Reservations are possible at Taste of Belgium Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Cas di Glas 2012 is ready to

rumble - expect an island-wide collection of Wit Gele Kruis volunteers, lots of fun happenings and loads of music, dance and entertainment, all for a good cause. □

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Plaza Mall

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With its clients in mind:

Aruba bank opens ATM, night depository at the new Superfood Plaza

- An Aruba Bank Service Center to open soon!

ORANJESTAD, Aruba - November 19th 2012 : In consideration of its clients, round-the-clock convenience, effectiveness and accessibility, Aruba Bank has announced that it will be opening a very innovative and flexible Aruba



Bank Service Center at the new Superfood Plaza, shortly. The Aruba Bank Service Center will provide a variety of services to its clients. Additionally, Aruba Bank has another flexible and very important feature to offer: A new ATM and Night Depository located at Superfood Plaza, which is already up and running and servicing all of the bank's clients.

Aruba Bank's automated tellers, located around the island, are simply indispensable, available to clients wishing to use the services of the ATMs and depository at night, in fact, 24 hours a day.

Most clients love being able to use the ATM services at any time, even outside banking hours, because their lives and work schedules require services



around the clock. Aruba Bank would like to inform all of its clients to take into account that the ATM located in the building of the old Su-

per Food will now operate from the Superfood Plaza, Superfood's new, spacious building on Sasakiweg. Aruba Bank believes that its

clients will make good use of these new services and is excited to be able to provide a positive contribution to its clients' lives. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean.

What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II", is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to



Winners of Int'l. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

5pm.

Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com. Driftwood Restaurant

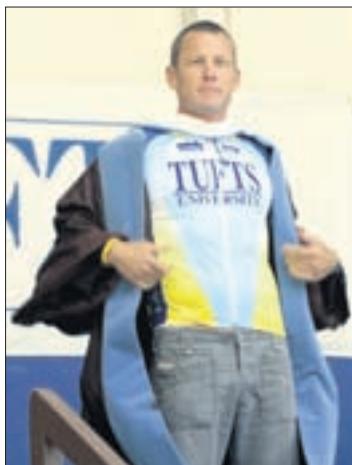
This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95. Charter deep sea fishing rates: \$400 - 1/2 day

\$760- full day Rates per boat Max. 6 people **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Opening hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



This May 21, 2006, file photo shows Lance Armstrong showing his Tufts University cycling jersey while he delivered the commencement address at Tufts University 150th commencement in Somerville, Mass.

Associated Press

Tufts rescinds Lance Armstrong's honorary degree

MEDFORD, Massachusetts (AP) — Tufts University in Massachusetts in the United States has rescinded Lance Armstrong's honorary degree. A university spokeswoman says the school's trustees voted unanimously at their meeting this month to rescind the doctor of humane letters bestowed upon Armstrong in 2006. During his keynote speech in which he revealed a Tufts cycling jersey beneath his academic robes, Armstrong talked about his battle with testicular cancer and the need for everyone to get involved. He told graduates: "Be active. Be involved. Be heard. Be aggressive. Be smart. Don't be afraid." The university said Wednesday that while respecting Armstrong's cancer-fighting efforts, the board concluded his "actions as an athlete are inconsistent with the values of the university." Armstrong was stripped of seven Tour De France titles after the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency revealed evidence of performance-enhancing drug use. □

GONE to the U.S.A.



More and more Europeans are crossing the pond

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland reacts after sinking a putt on the 18th green to finish third at the Singapore Open golf tournament at the Serapong Course at Sentosa Golf Club in Singapore on Sunday Nov. 11, 2012.

Associated Press
Page 19

U.S. to try third women's football league

CHICAGO (AP) — Another American women's football league will try to succeed where two previous attempts have failed.

The currently unnamed eight-team league will launch in the spring, U.S. Soccer announced on Wednesday. The clubs will be in Boston, Chicago, Kansas City, New Jersey, Portland, Seattle, western New York and Washington.

The sport has repeatedly shown it can draw large numbers of American fans in the stands and on TV for the World Cup and Olympics, but women's football has yet to find a foothold as a pro sport in the U.S.

WUSA folded in 2003 after three seasons, failing to capitalize on the success of the 1999 Women's World Cup.

More recently, Women's Professional Soccer folded this year, also after three seasons.



In this March 12, 2012, file photo, Portland Timbers soccer fans, known as the "Timbers Army", watch their season opener against the Philadelphia Union during the first half of their MLS soccer game in Portland, Ore.

With a vested interest in ensuring national team players have somewhere to play in the years leading up to the 2015 Women's World Cup, U.S. Soccer is stepping in this time to seek to create a viable economic

model. The teams will still be privately owned, but the federation will pay for the salaries of 24 national team players.

U.S. Soccer also will fund the league's front offices.

"We are subsidizing the pri-

vate sector here to try to make it sustainable, to try to make the investments necessary by the private sector smaller," U.S. Soccer President Sunil Gulati said on a conference call.

The Canadian and Mexi-

Associated Press

can federations also will pay the salaries of some of their players, with the same goal of ensuring their national teams are well-prepared for the World Cup. That means each club won't have to spend on salaries for up to seven players.

"We won't start off with the sort of deficits that we started the last two leagues with," Boston Breakers managing partner Michael Stoller. The league will try to save money compared with the WPS in other ways, as well. Gulati said teams might sign fewer elite international players.

Clubs will play in smaller stadiums to lower operating costs and do less marketing.

"What we need is a sustainable model: Less hype, better performance," Gulati said.

"The hype will come if we have the performance." □

Hiroki Kuroda, Yankees agree to \$15 million deal

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees filled one of the slots in their rotation Tuesday, agreeing to a \$15 million, one-year contract with No. 2 starter Hiroki Kuroda as they await a decision from Andy Pettitte on whether he wants to return in 2013.

"It something that I think fits how we've operated here in the last number of years, to do short-term circumstances on high-end players," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

The Yankees will pay the luxury tax on high payrolls for the 10th straight season this year and will hand over more tax money in 2013. But they say they want to get under 2014's threshold of \$189 million, which would enable them to get some of their revenue-sharing dollars back. That's why a one-year deal made sense for Kuroda, a right-hander who turns 38 in February.

The Japanese star was the Yankees' most consistent pitcher during the regular season. He went 16-11, ty-

ing for the team lead in wins, and led New York with 33 starts and 219 2-3 innings. Cashman called the agreement "a relief."

"Hiroki Kuroda chose us on a lesser deal last year and I suspect he's done the same again this year," Cashman said. "By coming here, I suspect that he left money on the table. I suspect it was a very aggressive market on him, and I think it is a reflection of he really enjoyed playing here for this city, for this team, for this organization and with these teammates to come back under the circumstances he's coming back on."

After losing six of his first nine decisions, Kuroda finished with a 3.32 ERA that was second among New York starters behind Pettitte's 2.87.

"I am very happy and excited to re-sign with the Yankees," Kuroda said in a statement. "I am very grateful for all of the interest and all of the offers that I received from the various teams that courted me. It was a tough decision for



In this Oct. 14, 2012, file photo, New York Yankees pitcher Hiroki Kuroda throws in the first inning of Game 2 of the American League championship series against the Detroit Tigers in New York.

Associated Press

me to make, but at the end of the day, I wanted to try to win a championship with the teammates that I went to battle with last season." Kuroda joined the Yankees after four seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers, was given a \$10 million base salary last season and earned

\$1 million more in performance bonuses based on innings. He turned down a \$13.3 million qualifying offer from the Yankees, and he would have cost a new team a selection in June's amateur draft.

He joins CC Sabathia, Phil Hughes and Ivan Nova in

the Yankees' projected starting rotation for next season, with David Phelps also a possibility. Pettitte, who came out of retirement to rejoin the Yankees, hasn't decided whether he wants to play next year. Cashman won't say how long he'll wait. □

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Europe losing out to PGA Tour in vying for stars

MICHAEL CASEY

AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The European Tour has no problem producing star players. It's keeping them that's the challenge.

Several players from Europe's Ryder Cup-winning team this year already spend much of their time in the United States and the list is only growing.

Lee Westwood has moved from England to Florida. Former PGA Championship winner Martin Kaymer announced Tuesday he was joining the PGA Tour, and big-hitting Belgian Nicolas Colsaerts told The Associated Press that he will cut his European Tour tournaments to the minimum 13 next year so he can play a full schedule on the PGA Tour.



Ian Poulter, left, of England congratulates Adam Scott from Australia on the 18th green after the final round of the Australian Masters golf tournament at Kingston Heath Golf Club in Melbourne, Australia, on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012.

Associated Press

Europa League match in Israel is postponed

NYON, Switzerland (AP) — A Europa League game in Israel was called off Wednesday because of the violence between Israeli forces and the Hamas group in Gaza.

UEFA cited "the tense security situation in the region" for postponing Thursday's match in Haifa between Hapoel Kiryat Shmona and Spanish side Athletic Bilbao.

UEFA said a decision on rescheduling the match will be made by the end of the week.

UEFA said the decision didn't affect its plans to meet in Tel Aviv next Wednesday to conduct the draw for the Under-21 European Championship.

Israel is to host the eight-nation tournament next June. UEFA President Michel Platini is expected to attend the draw along with officials from competing nations including England, Germany, Italy, Russia and Spain.

Athletic Bilbao had been scheduled to fly to Israel on Wednesday for the group-stage Europa League match. Athletic spokesman Xavier Fernandez said UEFA called the club and informed it that "due to the circumstances currently prevailing in Israel, the match was not to go ahead."

"As a consequence we have not flown out there," Fernandez told The Associated Press.

UEFA has been monitoring the security situation since an Israeli offensive in Gaza flared last week. □

"It's a stronger tour and you have the best players in America," Colsaerts said Wednesday. "This is perfect timing for me. I've had a pretty good year over here and it's maybe time to have a taste of somewhere else, see if I like it and see if it's the tour I will be playing for the next couple of years."

Ryder Cup stars Luke Donald, Ian Poulter and Graeme McDowell are already based in the United States. It all comes down to more money and less travel.

According to the PGA, five more international players will be members next year, meaning 28 of the top 30 players in the world rankings will be on the tour. In addition to Kaymer and Colsaerts, they are Peter Hanson of Sweden, Ryo Ishikawa of Japan and David Lynn of England, the PGA Championship runner-up.

"The U.S. tour is an attractive tour. You play in one place and it's quite an easy tour to travel around," said Donald, whose home is in Chicago. "Europe is becoming increasingly difficult. There are a fewer events in Europe and more in Asia."

They have done well to create a schedule with lots of events in Asia, but it has its disadvantages through travel. You can't blame any player for wanting to go play on the U.S. tour."

Poulter, who has called Florida home for the past four years, said high-profile sponsors are needed to ensure the European Tour remains relevant.

"It's a tough situation for the tour to be in, and I really hope there's a plan to help the tour get more big sponsors," Poulter said. "Obviously, Europe in general as a continent is struggling."

There's not much money and it's very hard to convince sponsors to put big tournaments on. I don't think that trend is going to change just yet."

European Tour Chief Executive George O'Grady said the departure of so many stars was a testament to the quality of players in Europe and the increasing openness of the PGA Tour to accept them.

But he agreed that keeping the top talent requires larger amounts of prize money, an increasingly difficult prospect at a time when the financial crisis has led this year to the loss of four European Tour events in Spain and one in Czech Republic.

"We are concerned but not panicking," O'Grady said.

"We have to improve our game back here in heartland Europe, make our tournaments better and that also means richer. We don't seem to have any problem on the structure in the game in Europe developing the talent. But you want to see more of your talent as much as you can."

Not every big name is ready to give up on the European Tour. Top-ranked Rory McIlroy still plans to make it a central part of his season.

"I think with the way golf has gone, you can be a global player and you can play all over the world," said McIlroy, who won the European and PGA Tour money titles this season. "I don't think anyone is going to neglect the European Tour."

"The European Tour gave me a lot of opportunities coming through, and it's something that I'll never forget and something that I'll always hold onto." □

Boxer 'Macho' Camacho critical in Puerto Rico

BEN FOX

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

The family of Hector "Macho" Camacho tried to decide Wednesday whether he should be removed from life support after a shooting in his Puerto Rican hometown left the former boxing champion clinging to life and his fans mourning the loss of a dynamic and often troubled athlete.

Doctors at the Centro Medico trauma center in San Juan were conducting additional tests to determine whether he was brain dead, according to said Ismael Leandry, a longtime friend and former manager who was also at the hospital.

"We just have to wait to see if 'Macho' gets better. It's a hard battle," Leandry told AP.

Torres said Camacho's mother, Maria Matias, spent about 20 minutes with her son, one of the most dynamic boxing personalities of his era, and was expected to return for a second visit on Wednesday night.

"His mother came and she is devastated," he said. "She knows the prognosis is not at all favorable." A godson, Widniel Adorno, said the family has discussed the possibility of organ donation but no final decision has been made. Camacho's friend, identified as 49-year-old Adrian Mojica Moreno, was killed

The 50-year-old Camacho was shot as he and a friend sat in a Ford Mustang parked outside a bar. Police spokesman Alex Diaz said officers found nine small bags of cocaine in the friend's pocket, and a 10th bag open inside the car. The specialists will then consult with other doctors and Camacho's mother, who flew in Wednesday from New York, to discuss whether he should be removed from life support, said Ismael Leandry, a longtime friend and former manager who was also at the hospital.

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"His mother came and she is devastated," he said. "She knows the prognosis is not at all favorable." A godson, Widniel Adorno, said the family has discussed the possibility of organ donation but no final decision has been made. Camacho's friend, identified as 49-year-old Adrian Mojica Moreno, was killed



This June 22, 1996, file photo shows Hector "Macho" Camacho being lifted into the air after his unanimous decision over Roberto Duran in an IBC middleweight title fight at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort in Atlantic City, N.J.

Associated

Press

in the attack. Police said two assailants fled in an SUV but no arrests have been made and no motive has been disclosed.

Camacho was rushed to Centro Medico, where doctors initially said the bullet passed through his jaw and lodged in his shoulder. Torres said the bullet damaged three of the four main arteries in his neck and fractured two vertebrae, which could leave him paralyzed if he were to survive.

Steve Tannenbaum, who has also represented Camacho in the past, had been told earlier by friends at the hospital that the boxer would make it.

"This guy is a cat with nine lives. He's been through so much," he said. "If anybody can pull through it will be him."

Friends and family members waited anxiously at the hospital, fondly recalling Camacho's high-energy personality and his pow-

erful skills in the ring.

"He was like a little brother who was always getting into trouble," said former featherweight champion Juan Laporte, a fellow Puerto Rican who grew up and trained with Camacho in New York.

Camacho has been considered one of the more controversial figures in boxing, but also popular among fans and those who worked in the sport.

"The Macho Man was a promoter's dream," renowned promoter Don King told AP. "He excited boxing fans around the world with his inimitable style. He was a nice, amiable guy away from the ring."

King had promoted Camacho but was caught off guard by news of the attack on the former champion. "What a tragedy this is," he said. "I'm very sorry for Hector and his family. My prayers go out to him." The fighter's last title bout came against then-welterweight champion Oscar De La Hoya in 1997, a loss by unanimous decision. He last fought in May 2010, losing to Saul Duran. Tannenbaum said they were looking at a possible bout in 2013.

"We were talking comeback even though he is 50," he said. "I felt he was capable of it." □

NHL lockout talks break off again with frustration

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - NHL labor talks broke off soon after they resumed Wednesday, with players maintaining their new proposal was a huge economic concession and Commissioner Gary Bettman pretty much saying the only deal he will agree to is the one management proposed last month.

On the 67th day of a lockout that already has wiped out more than a quarter of the regular season, the sides headed home for Thanksgiving with no end in sight to the sport's fourth

work stoppage. The union's negotiating committee planned to brief players and get back in touch with management on Friday.

"We're dealing with a union that really isn't trying to negotiate, make any deal that we can live with for the long-term health of this game," Bettman said outside the league's Manhattan office when questioned by a fan, 41-year-old Jaymes Hall of Lancaster, Pa. "We're hoping that with the passage of time, the players' association will come to realize that what we have proposed has been more than fair. And

the fact that we're keeping this proposal on the table, when it was contingent on an 82-game season, should be evidence of our desire to get this done the right way." Informed of Bettman's comments, union head Donald Fehr said "my response is they seem to consider negotiating to be merely agreeing with them." "We've identified what's important to players, but they seem to be so far at least unwilling to treat those concerns in a serious way," Fehr said in a telephone interview.

Players made what both sides called a comprehen-

sive proposal. Fehr said the sides were \$182 million apart in a five-year deal, which comes to \$1.2 million annually for each of the 30 teams. "On the big things there was as of today no reciprocity in any meaningful sense, no movement on the players' share, no movement on salary-arbitration eligibility, no move-

ment on free agency eligibility, no agreement on a pension plan," Fehr said as he left the talks. Management wants to increase eligibility for free agency to 28 years of age or eight seasons of NHL service, up from 27 or 7.

Management also proposed Wednesday adding a year of service for salary arbitration eligibility, hiking it from 1-4 to 2-5 years of service, depending on the age a player signs, a person familiar with the bargaining said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because that detail wasn't announced.

"There seems to be a lot of spinning and gamesmanship going on," Bettman said. Winnipeg defenseman Ron Hainsey, among nine players at the bargaining, said the union was "disappointed with the response." □

NBA Capsules

Lakers hold off Nets 95-90, win Mike D'Antoni's debut

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant scored six of his 25 points in the final two minutes, and the Los Angeles Lakers hung on for a 95-90 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday night in coach Mike D'Antoni's sideline debut.

Dwight Howard had 23 points and 15 rebounds despite a horrific 7-for-19 performance at the free-throw line for the Lakers, who have won five of six and moved above .500 since firing Mike Brown.

Although D'Antoni is still unsteady on his surgically replaced knee, he coached Los Angeles to a narrow victory that snapped Brooklyn's five-game winning streak.

Brook Lopez scored 23 points and Deron Williams had 22 for the Nets, who missed five of their last six shots in their ninth consecutive loss to the Lakers.

KNICKS 102, HORNETS 80
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points and the Knicks ex-



Los Angeles Lakers head coach Mike D'Antoni looks downward in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012.

Associated Press

tended the undermanned New Orleans Hornets' losing streak to four games. Raymond Felton and J.R. Smith each added 15 points. Felton scored all of his points on five 3-pointers as New York hit 14 3s as a

team. Tyson Chandler grabbed 12 rebounds for the Knicks, who've won two straight since their first loss of the season and are 8-1 for only the third time in franchise history.

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Ryan Anderson, starting in place of Anthony Davis, led the Hornets with 15 points. Davis was ruled out shortly before tip-off because tenderness in his left ankle.

76ERS 106, RAPTORS 98

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jason Richardson scored six of his 21 points late in the fourth quarter, Nick Young had 23 off the bench and the 76ers rallied to beat To-

ronto. Jrue Holiday had 19 points and 12 assists and Thad Young scored 18 to help the Sixers win their third straight game.

DeMar DeRozan had 24 and Andrea Bargnani scored 22 for the Raptors, who are off to a 3-8 start. Down 87-80 early in the fourth, the Sixers came back to win their first game in which they trailed after three quarters.□

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Chris Pine Alec Baldwin

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Kristen Stewart Robert Pattinson

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breaking dawn**

part 2
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Daniel Craig Javier Bardem

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Denzel Washington John Goodman

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STARTING NEXT WEEK NOVEMBER 29 SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK

Joyful Heart - By: Dr Carlos Viana

While interning in Shanghai as a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) physician, I learned that an energetic heart allows the expression of joy. The literary word for lightening the mood of something is "leaven"; as in "readers tell me that these weekly articles leaven or enliven their mood". The Modern Greek word "leaven" is "enzumos" that yields the word enzyme. Enzymes are proteins produced by the cells that control or "turn on" thousands of body reactions.

One enzyme family is digestive enzymes, which help the body naturally, digest food, a good thing. Plant digestives, like Bromelain from pineapple AND Beta Pepsin or Hydrochloric Acid (HCL) are good supplement choices for overeating or eating the wrong foods. But even good things need help, like Phyllis, without whose organization skills, I would accomplish very little. Similarly, an important partner that helps enzymes work are coenzymes. The prefix "co" means together or jointly, like co-worker.

One coenzyme that is getting a lot of attention is Co-enzyme10 or CoQ10. This supplement is widely used in Japan to treat angina, severe chest pains because of a lack of blood to the heart. Pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, swelling of the ankles, legs or abdomen, and increased urination, are all symptoms that may signal that the heart cannot pump sufficient blood to keep pace with the energy demands of the body, congestive heart failure. If you suspect any of the above, it may be a good idea to have a check-up.

CoQ10 is found in every cell in the body. CoQ10 assists enzymes in bringing oxygen into the cells and producing energy needed for cell growth and maintenance. It is also used by the body as an antioxidant. An antioxidant is a substance that protects cells from unhealthy chemicals called free radicals. Free radicals are highly reactive chemicals that can dam-

age parts of cells, including DNA. DNA is a molecule inside cells that carries genetic information and passes it from one generation to the next. This damage may play a role in the development of cancer. Low blood levels of CoQ10 have been found in patients with bone, lymph gland, breast, lung, prostate, pancreas, colon, kidney, and other cancers. Think of CoQ10 as an accelerator pedal in your car that sends more fuel to your heart. If the fuel is not available, symptoms of congestive heart failure develop. The fuel for your body is ATP whose structure includes a sugar called ribose. Combining the dietary supplement D-ribose together with CoQ10 is an energizing combination.

As a Clinical Nutritionist I always recommend CoQ10 be taken together with complementary or "co-worker" supplements; because absorption of CoQ10 into your body is poor. In fact, probably over 60 percent of most oral doses of CoQ10 are excreted by the body without being used. Absorption of CoQ10 is greater when taken together with food that has a good quality fat content, like olive oil, wild caught salmon and butter (notice I did not say margarine). Because of this, I always recommend taking CoQ10 together with a fat or oil, like Omega 3 or Alpha-lipoic acid. Quality dietary supplement manufacturers are now produc-

ing CoQ10 with enhanced absorption or bioavailability by surrounding each CoQ10 molecule with tiny fat cells of good fats like alpha-lipoic acid.

Most modern diets are deficient in Omega 3's and adding Flax seed oil or Fish oils, to a daily supplement program, which includes vitamin C, Magnesium, Zinc and Lecithin is what I feel is a great basic dietary plan. Of course, not everybody utilizes or absorbs the same. If you have any health concerns, visit a clinical nutritionist to be sure you are getting the right combination of co-workers for your needs.

Another super oil or fat is alpha lipoic acid which is known as the "universal antioxidant". It has the ability to conserve and prolong the life of vitamins C & E in the body, increasing their effectiveness. Alpha lipoic acid is also an excellent metal detoxifier, particularly for mercury and cadmium. In Germany, alpha-lipoic acid is an approved medical treatment for nerve damage and pain, a common complication of diabetes. It speeds the removal of glucose from the bloodstream, at least partly by enhancing insulin function, and it reduces insulin resistance, the foundation of many cases of coronary heart disease and obesity. The richest food source of alpha-lipoic acid is red meat.

Alpha lipoic acid binds easily with CoQ10 mak-

ing it better absorbed by your body. Because of insufficient dietary intake of healthy oils, taking alpha-lipoic acid together with CoQ10 is a good way to increase absorption of both. These two supplements in combination are extremely effective for prolonging cellular vitality and reducing the body's production of unhealthy free radicals. ALA and CoQ10 also enhance production of ATP which is the body's form of energy. D-Ribose alone can help your body refuel and stay energized a must for athletes, older individuals, exhausted parents or anyone with busy lives. Together, ALA with CoQ10 and D-ribose help produce much more energy for all body functions, including exercise and relaxing and recovery of the body's muscles. This is a joyous thing, especially for the heart.

Get The Point! Dietary supplements are important tools that can be used to maintain or return health; but, like carpentry tools, knowledge on how to use them is instrumental. An appointment with a clinical nutritionist can identify your personal needs and introduce the correct co-workers to do the best job. My biocompatible protocol also includes heavy metal and other detoxification and acupuncture, a treatment that rebalances the body's energy, relaxes tight muscles and increases the effectiveness of di-



etary supplements. Want to allow more joy into your heart? Check out this and more in my book or call to make an appointment.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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US abortions see biggest drop in a decade

MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. abortions fell 5 percent during the Great Recession in the biggest one-year decrease in at least a decade, according to government figures released Wednesday. The reason for the decline wasn't clear, but some experts said it may be due to better use of birth control during tough economic times. Their theory is that some women believe they can't afford to get pregnant.

"They are more careful about birth control," said Elizabeth Ananat, a Duke University assistant professor of public policy and economics who has researched abortions.

While many states have aggressively restricted access to abortion, most of those laws were adopted in the past two years and are not believed to have played a role in the decline.

Abortions have been dropping slightly over much of the past decade. But before this latest report, they

seemed to have leveled off. The new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that both the number and rate of abortions fell 5 percent in 2009, the most recent statistics available from most states.

Nearly all states report abortion numbers to the federal government, but it's voluntary. A few states — including California, which has the largest population and largest number of abortion providers — don't send in data. Experts be-

lieve there are more than 1 million abortions performed nationwide each year, but because of the incomplete reporting, the CDC had reports of about 785,000 in 2009. For the sake of consistency, the CDC focused on the numbers from 43 states and two cities — those that have been sending in data without interruption for at least 10 years. The researchers found that abortions per 1,000 women of child-bearing age fell from about 16 in 2008 to roughly 15 in 2009. □



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Toshiba shows four-legged robot for nuke disaster

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — Toshiba Corp. unveiled a robot Wednesday that the company says can withstand high radiation and help in nuclear disasters. But it remains unclear what exactly the new machine will be capable of doing if and when it gets the go-ahead to enter Japan's crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

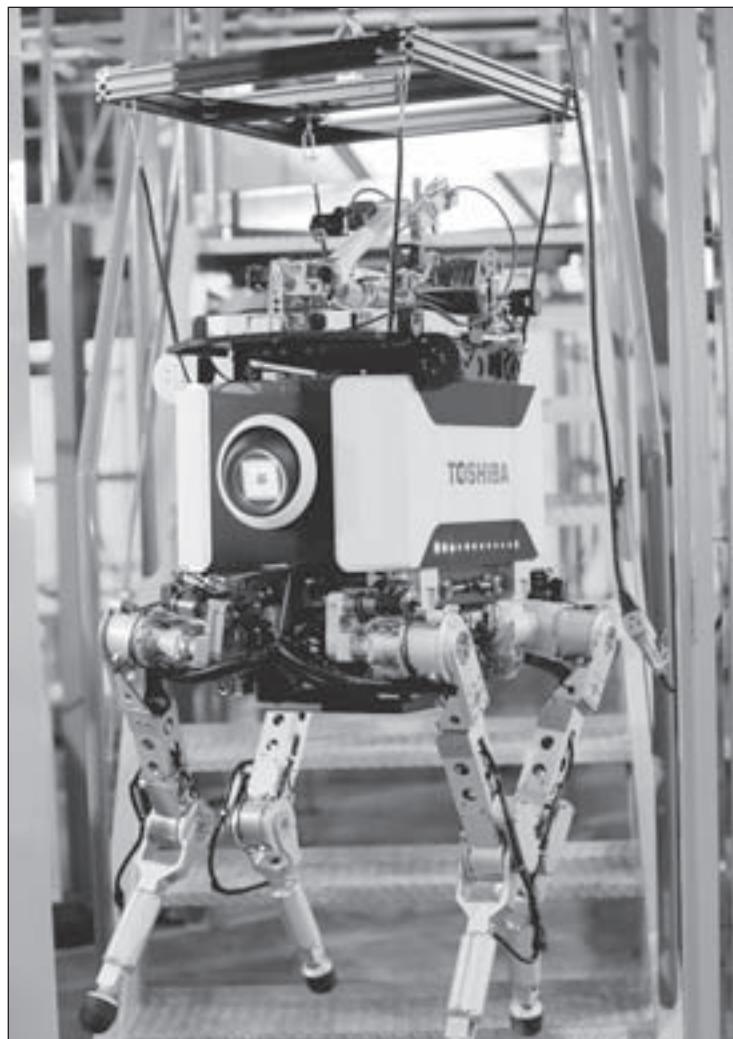
The four-legged robot can climb over debris and venture into radiated areas off-limits to human workers. One significant innovation, Toshiba said, is that its wireless network can be con-

Facebook proposes to end voting on privacy issues

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook is proposing to end its practice of letting users vote on changes to its privacy policies. The company says it will continue to let users comment on proposed updates.

The world's biggest social media company plans to announce Wednesday that its voting mechanism, which is triggered only if enough people comment on proposed changes, has become a system that emphasizes the quantity of responses over the quality of discussion.

Facebook began letting users vote on privacy changes in 2009. Since then, it has gone public and its user base has ballooned from around 200 million to more than 1 billion. As part of the 2009 policy, users' votes only count if more than 30 percent of all Facebook's active users partake. □



Toshiba Corp.'s nuclear inspection robot is set on stairs before climbing stairs during a demonstration at a Toshiba factory in Yokohama, west of Tokyo, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012.

Associated Press

trolled in high radiation, automatically seeking better transmission when reception becomes weak. But the machine, which looks like an ice cooler on wobbly metal legs, also appears prone to glitches. The robot took a jerky misstep during a demonstration to reporters, freezing with one leg up in the air. It had to be lifted by several people and rebooted.

The robot was also notably slow in climbing a flight of eight steps, cautiously lifting its legs one by one, and taking about a minute to go up each step. With obstacles that aren't as even and predictable as steps, such as the debris at the plant, it may need as much as 10 minutes to

figure out how to clear the object, Toshiba acknowledged. And if it ever falls, it will not be able to get up on its own. Still, Tokyo Electric Power Co. said it might use the robot to inspect the suppression chamber of the Fukushima plant, where a devastating meltdown took place after a mammoth tsunami slammed into northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011.

Toshiba began developing the robot after the disaster with hopes it would prove useful in helping to decommission the plant. No human has been able to enter the highly radiated chamber since the tsunami disaster.

"We need this to go in and first check what is there,"

said Toshiba Senior Manager Goro Yanase.

It was unclear when a decision on the robot's use would be made, according to TEPCO, which operates the nuclear plant. Although what Toshiba showed was top-notch robotics, what the machine might be able to do appeared limited in the face of the disaster's magnitude and complexity.

Japan boasts among the world's most sophisticated robotics technology, exemplified in the walking, talking human-shaped Asimo robot from Honda Motor Co. The inability of such gadgetry to help out with the Fukushima disaster was widely criticized.

Part of the reason is that robots, although suited for

tasks such as greeting visitors at dealerships, are too delicate. Their wireless remote-controlled networks are not designed to endure high radiation. Honda has acknowledged Asimo would not have been able to withstand the environment at Fukushima, as some had suggested.

Toshiba's Yanase said the new robot, which has a dosimeter to measure radiation and six cameras, can stay in a 100 millisievert environment for about a year and can tolerate even higher radiated areas for shorter periods. At 100 millisieverts, the rise in cancer cases caused by radiation becomes statistically detectable, although even lower dose radiation is not advisable for people. □

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Stocks edge up ahead of Thanksgiving break

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market crept higher Wednesday ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. Major market indexes got a slight lift after news broke of a cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The truce was announced by Egypt's foreign minister and confirmed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. A week of fighting has killed more than 140 Palestinians and five Israelis. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 48.38 points, or 0.4 percent, to 12,836.89.

Three of the most expensive stocks in the average — Boeing, IBM and United Technologies — each rose more than 60 cents. Higher-priced stocks in the Dow carry more weight. The Labor Department said

that first-time applications for unemployment benefits fell by 41,000 last week to 410,000.

The figure remains temporarily high because of Superstorm Sandy and was in line with what economists had expected.

"The news today didn't mess anything up," said Harry Clark, CEO of Clark Capital Management, an investment advisory firm in Philadelphia.

"With no bad news, this market will drift higher."

That's partially because investors have stopped worrying as much about the "fiscal cliff" of tax increases and government spending cuts that are set to take effect Jan. 1, Clark said.

Over the past week, congressional Republicans and Democrats have made conciliatory remarks and

raised hopes that they will reach a deal to stave off the full effect of the budget-tightening measures.

While the cuts would hurt the economy gradually, they could be enough to push the U.S. back into re-

cession next year, economists have warned.

"Both sides appear to have extended an olive branch," said JJ Kinahan, chief derivatives strategist at TD Ameritrade.

"The assumption now is



A man portraying Santa Claus visits the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday Nov. 21, 2012 before he participated in opening bell ceremonies featuring the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

(AP Photo/NYSE Euronext, Ben Hider)

Measure of future US economic activity up 0.2%

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A measure of the U.S. economy intended to signal future activity rose only slightly last month, suggesting growth could stay weak. The Conference Board said Wednesday that its index of leading indicators increased 0.2 percent in October after a 0.5 percent gain in September.

The index is intended to anticipate economic conditions three to six months

out.

The strength in October came from lower interest rates, a drop in applications for unemployment benefits, and an increase in demand for large manufactured goods.

Applications for unemployment aid have spiked this month because Superstorm Sandy closed businesses and cut off power to 8 million homes in 10 states. People can claim unemployment benefits if their workplaces are forced to

close and they aren't paid.

In all, only four of the 10 indicators that make up the index improved.

The major areas of weakness were a decline in building permits, a drop in consumer confidence, a decline in the Institute for Supply Management's new orders index and lower stock prices. "Based on current trends, the economy will continue to expand modestly through the early months of 2013," Ken Goldstein, an economist at the Conference Board, said.

Many analysts predict growth at an annual rate of roughly 3 percent in the July-September quarter, up from the initial estimate of 2 percent reported last month.

The government releases its second estimate for third-quarter growth on Nov. 29. But many economists expect growth to slow in the current October-December quarter to an annual rate below 2 percent. □

that, it may not be pretty, but at the end of the day they'll get some compromise worked out."

In other Wednesday trading, the Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 3.22 points to 1,391.03.

Utilities fell the most, while telecommunication companies rose the most, but no category moved more than 0.6 percent.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 9.87 points to 2,926.55.

In the bond market, the yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note inched up to 1.68 percent. The quiet trading followed a largely uneventful Tuesday.

The Dow dropped as much as 94 points after a warning from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke about federal budget talks, then recovered to end with just a seven-point loss.

The stock market will be closed Thursday for Thanksgiving and will close early Friday.

Congress has the week off and will take up budget negotiations after its members return from the break next week.

Among companies making news:

— Deere, the maker of tractors and other farm and construction equipment, dropped 4 percent. It reported a quarterly profit of \$1.75 per share, missing Wall Street expectations of \$1.88. □

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Unemployment by the numbers

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER,
 AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment aid remained elevated for a second straight week because Superstorm Sandy forced many people to seek temporary benefits.

The Labor Department said Wednesday that first-time applications for benefits fell by 41,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 410,000. That offset only part of the previous week's surge. Two weeks ago, the storm drove applications up by 90,000 to 451,000, an 18-month high. Nearly 44,000 people in New York and 31,000 in New Jersey applied for benefits that week, according to the latest state data available. People in Pennsylvania and Connecticut also sought benefits because of the storm. Workers can claim unemployment benefits if their employers are forced to close and they aren't paid. Sandy could keep applications higher for another week, department officials say.

The four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose by 9,500 to 396,250.

Before the storm, weekly applications had fluctuated this year between 360,000 and 390,000. At the same time, employers added an average of nearly 157,000 jobs a month. That's barely enough to lower the unemployment rate, which was 7.9 percent in October.

The storm should also slow job growth in November, economists said. □

Deere posts downbeat 2013 outlook

JOSHUA FREED

AP Business Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Tractor maker Deere & Co. is taking a cautious view of 2013, as drought and economic uncertainty hold back spending in some of the world's biggest farm economies.

Also, its most recent quarterly profit missed analysts' expectations. Deere shares fell \$3.18, or 3.7 percent, to \$82.81 in Wednesday afternoon trading.

Deere is the world's largest maker of agricultural equipment, like the bright green tractors and combines that prowl farm fields during planting and harvest seasons. Its fortunes rise and fall with those of farmers.

In recent years, that's been a booming business as strong crop prices have put money in farmers' pockets. But there were signs of a

slowdown in farm spending in Deere's outlook for the fiscal year that began this month.

And with the so-called "fis-

Deere expects agriculture sales in the U.S. and Canada to be flat for the year, as farmers continue to recover from a major drought in

2012 or 2011.

It also predicted that European sales would be flat to down 5 percent, and little changed in Asia.

It expects 10 percent growth in South America. Overall Deere predicted that worldwide equipment sales will rise 5 percent for the year.

Labor expenses are rising, too. Deere hired 5,000 more people this year to support its growth.

And it will have spent \$480 million shoring up its pension plans in fiscal 2012 — \$5 million more than it had expected — and will spend some \$550 million in the current fiscal year.

Still, it predicted a fiscal 2013 profit of \$3.2 billion, slightly above the expectations of analysts polled by FactSet.

It said prices for its equipment will rise 3 percent for the year, on top of a 4 percent gain in the fourth quarter. □



Deere & Co. said Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012, that it earned \$687.6 million for the quarter, or \$1.75 per share.

(AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

cal cliff" of potential tax increases and spending cuts looming in the U.S., Deere is cautious about big spending projects.

2012. It predicted farmers will have \$402.5 billion in cash receipts for 2013 — down by \$2.5 billion from Deere's August prediction — but still higher than in

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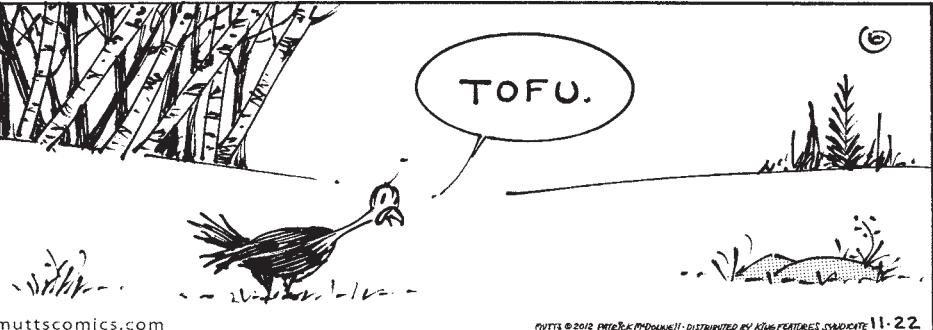
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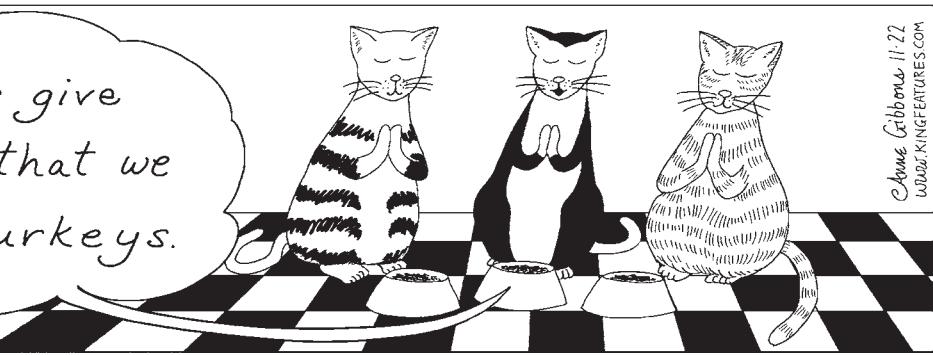
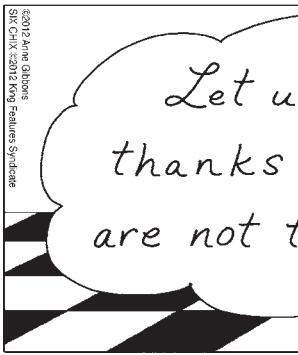
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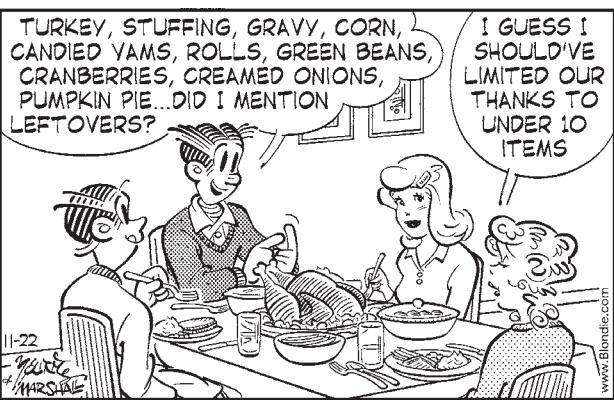
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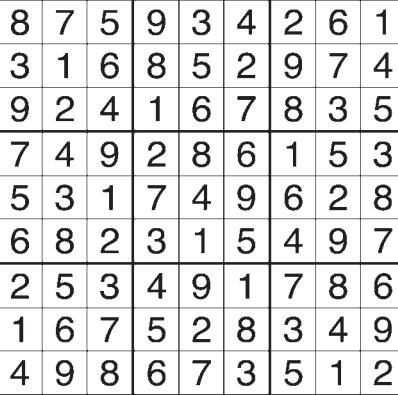
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Blondie

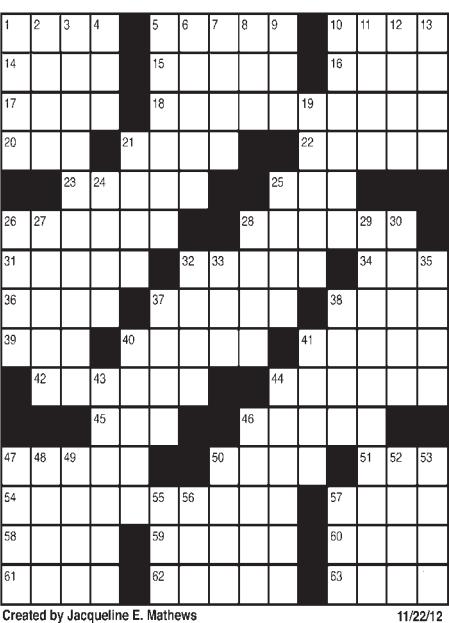


Yesterday's puzzle answer



ACROSS

1 Late actor Foxx
5 Shish __; BBQ favorite
10 Unpleasant
14 Trip __; stumble on
15 Pure virgin __ oil
16 Zero
17 5,280 feet
18 Accusation; charge
20 Cotton gin man __ Whitney
21 Escape
22 Desires
23 Actor __ Keith
25 PC alternative
26 Prims
28 Tortoise, e.g.
31 Rowed
32 Baton __, LA
34 Tax-deferred acct.
36 Skating rink
37 Belgrade residents
38 Air pollution
39 Allow
40 Loses color
41 Clamor
42 Becomes educated
44 Cheered
45 __ breath; halitosis
46 Steam bath
47 Temple leader
50 Saint Paul's state: abbr.
51 Late Senator Kennedy
52 Shoelace problem
13 Strong desires
19 In the know
21 Locate
24 Film holder
25 Big coffee cups
26 Combine
27 Become frayed
28 Bathroom fixtures
29 Restriction
30 Jagged
32 Ruby & scarlet
33 Calif.'s northern neighbor
35 Elderly
37 Beach surface



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/22/12

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



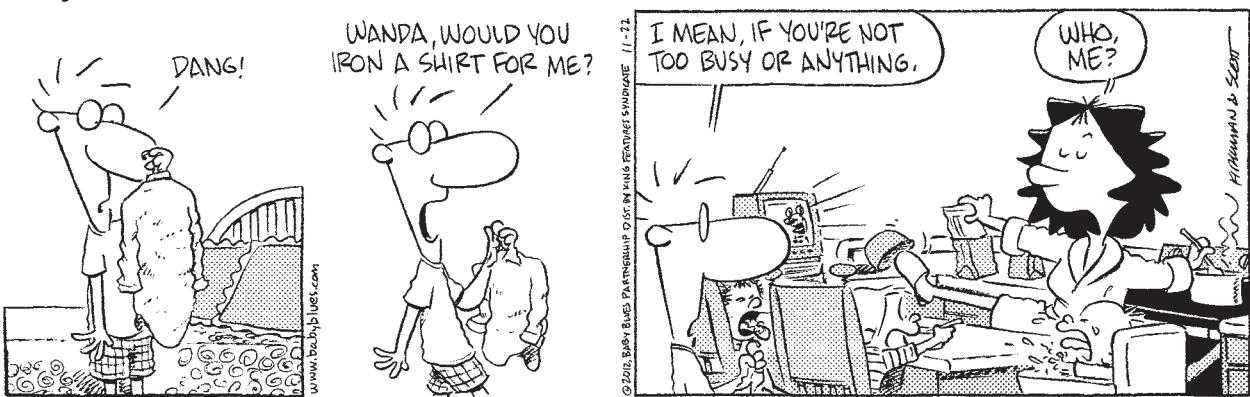
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11/22/12

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Baby Blues



Zits



3 Done on purpose
4 Dr. __ of rap
5 Cuddly looking marsupials
6 Actress Burstyn
7 Liver secretion
8 " Maria"
9 Plead
10 Still whole
11 Nickel or dime
12 Shoelace problem
13 Strong desires
19 In the know
21 Locate
24 Film holder
25 Big coffee cups
26 Combine
27 Become frayed
28 Bathroom fixtures
29 Restriction
30 Jagged
32 Ruby & scarlet
33 Calif.'s northern neighbor
35 Elderly
37 Beach surface

48 Vicinity
49 Make tea
50 Manufactured
52 Above all __; primarily
53 Recolors
55 Rail systems
56 Animal doc
57 Which person?

DOWN

1 Italy's capital
2 Corrupt

Barbados to grant oil exploration licenses to Australia's BHP Billiton



BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — The leader of Barbados says his administration expects to soon award exploration licenses for two offshore blocks that he hopes may eventually provide a petroleum windfall. Prime Minister Freundel Stuart says two acts recently passed by the Caribbean island's House of Assembly paved the way for offshore licenses to be granted to Australia-based BHP Billiton. In a Tuesday statement, Stuart says his government has received offers from several companies to undertake speculative sur-

veys in the area to evaluate where hydrocarbons might possibly be found.

Stuart's administration is also investing in solar panels to diversify the island's energy grid.

Over the past year, exploratory wells drilled off Cuba have come up a bust. Companies have also been seeking oil off Guyana's coast but have failed to tap offshore deposits. □

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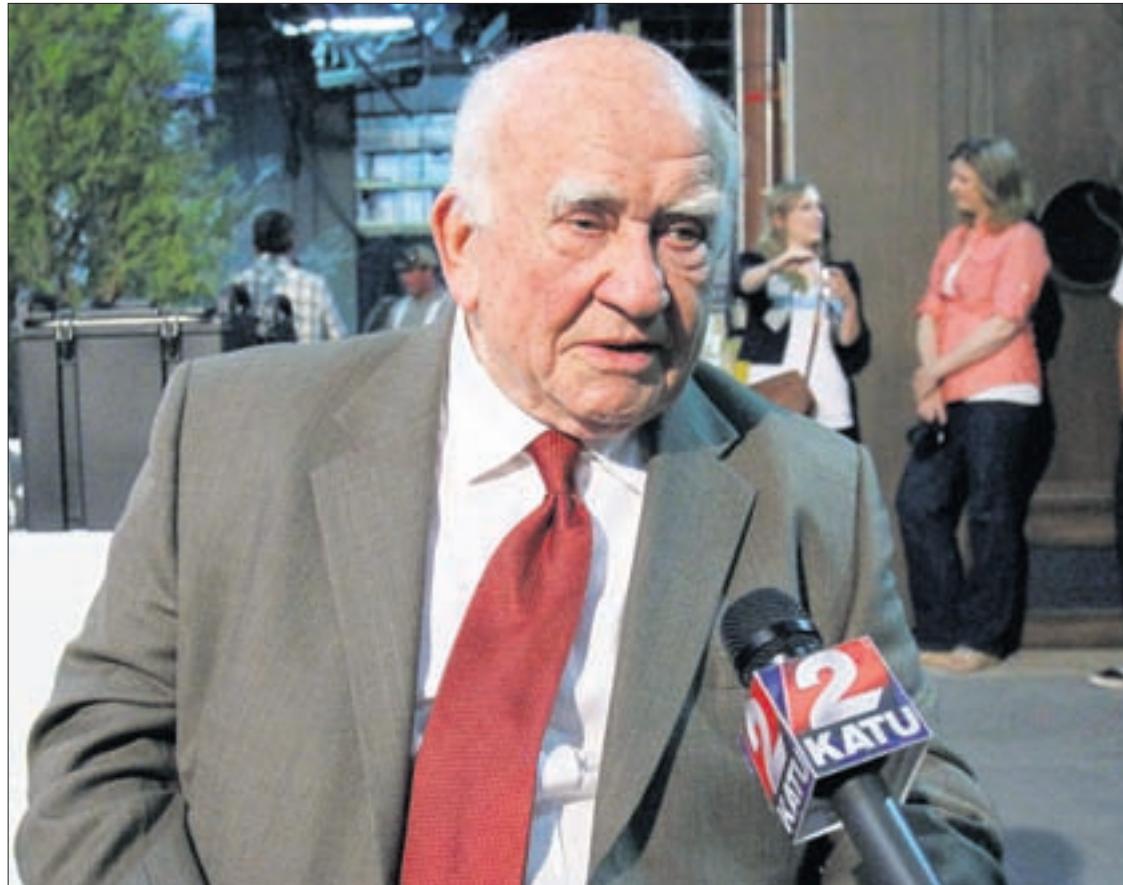
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Tom Hanks, Will Ferrell offer custom recordings



In this Tuesday, May 29, 2012 photo, actor and former Screen Actors Guild President Ed Asner is interviewed by a television station in Portland, Ore.

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Imagine having William Shatner supply your outgoing voicemail message. Or maybe you'd prefer Morgan Freeman coolly telling callers to wait for the beep. Or perhaps having Betty White joke around is more your speed. All it takes is \$299 and some luck. The advocacy group

Autism Speaks is offering custom-recorded messages from those celebrities as well as Will Ferrell, Carrie Fisher, Tom Hanks, Derek Jeter, Leonard Nimoy, Patrick Stewart and Ed Asner. From Dec. 3 to Dec. 9, a limited number of 20-second long MP3 messages will be recorded by each celebrity on a first-come, first-served basis for fans to do with as

they wish. All requests must be of the PG variety. Asner, the curmudgeonly Emmy Award winner of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "Lou Grant," dreamed up the unusual fundraiser with his son Matt, who works for Autism Speaks. "I think people will get a charge out of it," says Asner, who is currently on Broadway in the play "Grace." □

Associated Press



In this 1970 file photo, Jimi Hendrix performs on the Isle of Wight in England.

Associated Press

12 unreleased Jimi Hendrix songs to debut March 5

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A new Jimi Hendrix album is coming March 5. The musician's website says "People, Hell and Angels" contains 12 previously unreleased tracks recorded in 1968 and '69. Rolling Stone revealed the album cover on its website

Wednesday. Hendrix recorded the songs apart from the Jimi Hendrix Experience as he considered new, experimental directions for his follow-up to "Electric Ladyland." He plays keyboards, percussion and a second guitar on the album. □

Lindsay Lohan says return to red carpet 'feels great'

MARCELA ISAZA
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lindsay Lohan arrived an hour late to the red carpet to celebrate the premiere of "Liz & Dick" but basked in the media frenzy — saying it felt good to have the focus on her work as an actress.

"It feels great to be on a red carpet for working hard," Lohan said.

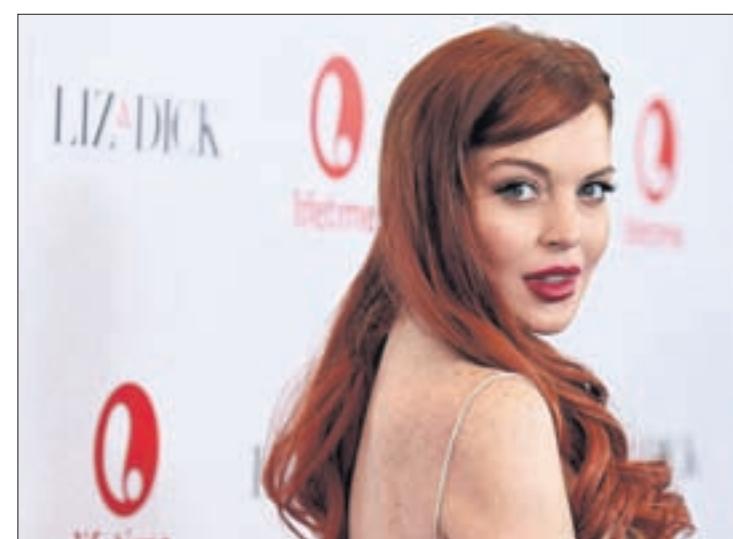
Lohan went for an old-Hollywood glamour look in a slinky ivory slip dress, her long hair wavy and parted on the side.

Lohan plays screen icon Elizabeth Taylor in the made-for-TV film about

her romance with Richard Burton that airs Sunday on Lifetime.

"I wasn't going to let them make the movie without me, first of all," joked Lohan. "I harassed (executive producer) Larry Thompson. But just because it's such an iconic story of love and defeat, and loving it, and Elizabeth Taylor was such an icon of mine and so many other people's, that it was an important film to depict correctly."

Top choices for the role were Lohan and Megan Fox, and Thompson said the choice became obvious after his meeting with Lohan.



Actress Lindsay Lohan attends a dinner celebrating the premiere of "Liz & Dick" at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

"Well Lindsay Lohan wanted it. That was really the big difference," said Thompson. "She evidenced in her words and looking at me in the eyes that needed it, she could relate to Elizabeth Taylor, she felt that she could bring an inner essence other than just being a good actress."

Lohan said she felt similarities with Taylor: "She grew up with her mom mostly, and so have I, and also living your life in the public, I think that's the main one. It's hard, but I think there are certain people that are, I look to her because she got through it." □

'Star Wars' 7 may bring new hope, but also letdown

RYAN NAKASHIMA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Darth Vader is dead. The evil Emperor exploded after being thrown down a shaft. And Luke Skywalker and his allies destroyed both Death Stars, restoring balance to the Force. For The Walt Disney Co., the prospective new owner of the "Star Wars" franchise, what's left to tell?

A lot, apparently.

There are more than 110 novels and 80-plus comic books set after the events of "Return of the Jedi," the sixth episode in the film series and the third to be made. All of these additions to the so-called "expanded universe" were sanctioned by Lucasfilm Ltd., founded by series creator George Lucas.

That has left a lot of room for speculation ever since Disney announced last month that it would buy Lucasfilm for \$4.05 billion and resume making "Star Wars" movies, starting with Episode 7 in 2015.

For fans, some big questions remain.

Will Luke take on a Jedi apprentice? Will Han Solo and



In this May 20, 2011 file photo, Disney CEO Robert Iger, left, and Star Wars creator George Lucas, third from right, talk to the Star Wars movie character Darth Vader, center, onstage at the Disney Hollywood Studios theme park during the re-opening celebration of the Star Tours motion simulation ride in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Princess Leia have kids? And who will be the movies' villain? (A) A revived Emperor; (B) the hard-to-kill bounty hunter Boba Fett; (C) some new corrupt leader of the remnants of the Empire, or (D), all of the above?

Each of these scenarios

have been explored in some fashion away from the big screen. Whether they will be incorporated into the next trilogy of films is anyone's guess.

"Right now, everyone is literally just reading tea leaves," said Bryan Young, a "Star Wars" watcher and

editor of the blog, Big Shiny Robot.

The facts so far about the announced Episodes 7, 8 and 9 are scant: Lucas will be a creative consultant but won't direct the films. Kathleen Kennedy will produce them as president of Lucasfilm. And Oscar-winning writer Michael Arndt, who wrote "Little Miss Sunshine" and "Toy Story 3," will pen the screenplay for Episode 7.

One of the most telling clues as to the next trilogy's direction, according to Young, is the fact that Lucas invited Luke actor Mark Hamill and Princess Leia actress Carrie Fisher to lunch some time ago to tell them that the sequels were going to be made, a reversal of his denials over the years.

Hamill talked about the lunch with Entertainment Weekly, saying he also spoke with Lucas about three weeks before the Disney announcement and just missed a call from him the day the deal was made public Oct. 30.

That suggests that Luke and on-screen sister Leia, will be involved in some way in the sequel. After all, their characters are the last members of the Skywalker family, and the most potent

wielders of the Force that appear to be left in the galaxy. "I think that's the best clue we have," Young said. Responding to a query from The Associated Press, Hamill said he couldn't comment further, but noted in an email, "I should have all the information I need very soon."

Fisher, Lucasfilm and several people who work for the company declined comment.

The notion that Luke will make a comeback doesn't veer far from what's known about the movies themselves or from what has been said over the years.

In 2004, Hamill told Movieblog.com that Lucas' ideas for the sequels go as far back as 1976 during the shooting of the original "Star Wars," when the director said an older Hamill would have roles in them.

There is further backing for the idea that Luke will reappear from the films that have already been released, including "Return of the Jedi."

And others around Lucas have spoken publicly about the idea that the family drama that began with Anakin Skywalker and continued with his son Luke would carry on for at least the next three films.

"It's really nine parts of one film," said Rick McCallum, producer of the prequel Episodes 1, 2 and 3, in 1999, according to "The Secret History of Star Wars" by author Michael Kaminski. The cohesion that McCallum suggested belies the haphazard nature with which the movies have been put together.

At different points in time, Lucas has said there was just one, three, six, nine or even 12 films envisioned in all.

Kaminski's book recounts multiple script revisions to most of the films, including some discrepancies that were later papered over. For instance, at one point, Anakin Skywalker and Darth Vader were separate characters, not the one person we know through the movies to have turned evil. □

Justin Bieber won't face charge for May scuffle

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecutors decided not to file any charges against Justin Bieber after investigators found no evidence that the pop star had kicked and punched a photographer after leaving a movie theater last month, a document obtained Wednesday states.

Prosecutors had been asked by police to consider filing a misdemeanor battery charge against Bieber, but Los Angeles County sheriff's investigators found no visible injuries, video or photographs to confirm the photographer's allegations.

Bieber, 18, was leaving the



his June 11, 2012 file photo shows Justin Bieber before a news conference in Mexico City.

Associated Press

theater with girlfriend Selena Gomez on May 27 when

he had the encounter in a parking lot.

Authorities interviewed several witnesses, but none reported seeing Bieber kick the man, and they noted that the photographer kept taking photos as the two singers left the location, according to the document prepared by the district attorney's office.

"All the photos and video taken during this incident by the many photographers were obtained and reviewed," the document states. "There are no photos of a physical alteration."

The case was rejected on Oct. 22 and first reported Wednesday by celebrity website TMZ. □

The Liberal Gloat



ROSS DOUTHAT

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Winning an election doesn't just offer the chance to govern the country. It offers a chance to feel morally and intellectually superior to the party you've just beaten. This is an inescapable aspect of democratic culture: No matter what reason tells us about the vagaries of politics, something in the American subconscious assumes that the voice of the people really is the voice of God, and that being part of a winning coalition must be a sign that you're His chosen one as well. This means the losing coalition must be doomed to wander east of Eden, and liberals have been having a good time with this idea of late. "Those poor, benighted Republicans!" runs the subtext of their post-election commentary. "They can't read polls! They can't reach Hispanics! They don't understand women! They don't have a team of Silicon Valley sorcerers running their turnout operations!" Back in 2011, the Obama White House earned some mild mockery for its "win the future" slogan. But now that the president has been re-elected, the liberal conventional wisdom is that the Democrats have done just that — that Republicans are now Radio Shack to their Apple store, "The Waltons" to their "Modern Family," a mediocre Norman Rockwell to their digital-age mosaic.

Maybe it's too soon to pierce this cloud of postelection smugness. But in the spirit of friendly correction — or, OK, maybe curmudgeonly annoyance — let me point out some slightly more unpleasant truths about the future that liberalism seems to be winning. Liberals look at the Obama majority and see a coalition bound together by enlightened values — reason rather than superstition, tolerance rather than bigotry, equality rather than hierarchy. But it's just as easy to see a coalition created by social disintegration and unified by economic fear. Consider the Hispanic vote. Are Democrats winning Hispanics because they put forward a more welcoming face than Republicans do — one more in keeping with America's tradition of assimilating migrants yearning to breathe free? Yes, up to a point. But they're also winning recent immigrants because those immigrants often aren't assimilating successfully — or worse, are assimilating downward, thanks to rising out-of-wedlock birthrates and high dropout rates. The Democratic edge among Hispanics depends heavily on these darker trends: the weaker that families and communities are, the more necessary government support inevitably seems. Likewise with

the growing number of unmarried Americans, especially unmarried women. Yes, social issues like abortion help explain why these voters lean Democratic. But the more important explanation is that single life is generally more insecure and chaotic than married life, and single life with children — which is now commonplace for women under 30 — is almost impossible to navigate without the support the welfare state provides. Or consider the secular vote, which has been growing swiftly and tilts heavily toward Democrats. The liberal image of a non-churchgoing American is probably the "spiritual but not religious" seeker, or the bright young atheist reading Richard Dawkins. But the typical unchurched American is just as often an underemployed working-class man, whose secularism is less an intellectual choice than a symptom of his disconnection from community in general. What unites all of these stories is the growing failure of America's local associations — civic, familial, religious — to foster stability, encourage solidarity and make mobility possible.

This is a crisis that the Republican Party often badly misunderstands, casting Democratic-leaning voters as lazy moochers or spoiled children seeking "gifts" (as a certain former Republican presidential nominee would have it) rather than recognizing the reality of their economic struggles. But if conservatives don't acknowledge the crisis' economic component, liberalism often seems indifferent to its deeper social roots. The progressive bias toward the capital-F Future, the old left-wing suspicion of faith and domesticity, the fact that Democrats have benefited politically from these trends — all of this makes it easy for liberals to just celebrate the emerging America, to minimize the costs of disrupted families and hollowed-out communities, and to treat the places where Americans have traditionally found solidarity outside the state (like the churches threatened by the Obama White House's contraceptive mandate) as irritants or threats. This is a great flaw in the liberal vision, because whatever role government plays in prosperity, transfer payments are not a sufficient foundation for middle-class success. It's not a coincidence that the economic era that many liberals pine for — the great, egalitarian post-World War II boom — was an era that social conservatives remember fondly as well: a time of leaping church attendance, rising marriage rates and birth-rates, and widespread civic renewal and engagement.

No such renewal seems to be on the horizon. That isn't a judgment on the Obama White House, necessarily. But it is a judgment on a certain kind of blithe liberal optimism, and the confidence with which many Democrats assume their newly emerged majority is a sign of progress rather than decline. □



The Conservative Future



DAVID BROOKS

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If you listened to the Republican candidates this year, you heard a conventional set of arguments. But if you go online, you can find a vibrant and increasingly influential center-right conversation. Most of the young writers and bloggers in this conversation intermingle, but they can be grouped, for clarity's sake, around a few hot spots:

PALEOCONSERVATIVES: The American Conservative has become one of the more dynamic spots on the political Web. Writers like Rod Dreher and Daniel Larison tend to be suspicious of bigness: big corporations, big government, a big military, concentrated power and concentrated wealth. Writers at that website, and at the temperamentally aligned Front Porch Republic, treasure tight communities and local bonds. They're alert to the ways capitalism can erode community. Dispositionally, they are more Walker Percy than Pat Robertson.

Larison focuses on what he calls the imperial tendencies of both the Bush and Obama foreign policies. He crusades against what he sees as the unchecked killing power of drone strikes and champions a more modest and noninterventionist foreign policy.

LOWER-MIDDLE REFORMISTS:

Reihan Salam, a writer for National Review, E21 and others, recently pointed out that there are two stories about where the Republican Party should go next. There is the upper-middle reform story: Republicans should soften their tone on the social issues to win over suburban voters along the coasts. Then there is a lower-middle reform story: Republicans should focus on the specific economic concerns of the multiethnic working class. Salam promotes the latter. This means acknowledging that working-class concerns are not what they were in the 1980s. The income tax is less burdensome than the payroll tax. Family disruption undermines social mobility. Republicans, he argues, should keep the social conservatism, which reinforces families, and supplement it with an agenda that supports upward mobility and social capital.

Similarly, Henry Olsen of the American Enterprise Institute has argued for a Republican Party that listens more closely to working-class concerns. Ramesh Ponnuru of National Review has argued for family-friendly tax credits and other measures that reinforce middle-class dignity. Jim Manzi wrote a seminal article in National Affairs on the need to promote innovation while reducing inequality.

SOFT LIBERTARIANS: Some of the most influential bloggers on the right, like Tyler Cowen, Alex Tabarrok and Megan McArdle, start from broadly libertarian premises but do not apply them in a doctrinaire way.

Many of these market-oriented writers emphasize that being pro-market is not the same as being pro-business. Luigi Zingales of the University of Chicago published an influential book, "A Capitalism for the People," that took aim at crony capitalism. Tim Carney of

The Washington Examiner does muckraking reporting on corporate-federal collusion. Rising star Derek Khanna wrote a heralded paper on intellectual property rights for the House Republican Study Committee that was withdrawn by higher-ups in the party, presumably because it differed from the usual lobbyist-driven position.

There are a number of unpredictable libertarian-leaning writers, including Conor Friedersdorf of The Atlantic on civil liberties issues, and Eugene Volokh on legal and free speech concerns.

BURKEAN REVIVALISTS: This group includes young conservatives whose intellectual roots go back to the organic vision of society described best by Edmund Burke but who are still deeply enmeshed in current policy debates.

Yuval Levin, the editor of National Affairs is one of the two or three most influential young writers in politics today. He argues that we are witnessing the fiscal crisis of the entitlement state, exemplified most of all by exploding health care costs. His magazine promotes a big agenda of institutional modernization.

The lawyer Adam J. White has argued for an approach to jurisprudence and regulatory affairs based on modesty, but not a doctrinaire clinging to original intent. Ryan Streeter of Indiana champions civil-society conservatism, an updated version of the Jack Kemp style.

By and large, these diverse writers did not grow up in the age of Reagan and are not trying to recapture it. They disdain what you might call Donor Base Republicanism. Most important, they matured intellectually within a far-reaching Web-based conversation. In contrast to many members of the conservative political-entertainment complex, they are data-driven, empirical and low-key in tone. □

Going All In For A Long Island Thanksgiving

JEFF GORDINIER

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BAYVILLE, N.Y. — If, in this week's Thanksgiving crunch of cooking and traveling, you find yourself frozen in a momentary rictus of panic, try to think of Linda Horgan. Think of her standing serenely in her kitchen on the North Shore of Long Island, with a view of a shimmering waterway through a big window, drawing a deep breath as she prepares to orchestrate the feeding and entertaining of nearly 40 people.

Horgan, a 59-year-old wife and mother who has a little side project working as the chief information officer for a major law firm, is one of those Thanksgiving celebrants you'll occasionally hear about, usually when an interior scream is passing through your skull at around noon on Big Thursday.

Over the past half-decade or so, her answer to the logistical and gustatory challenges of this national holiday has been a spirited one: double down. She used to welcome about 20 people into her home. This year the count will tip closer to 39. They're coming from other parts of Long Island, from New Hampshire, from Colorado — immediate family, extended family, friends. "It's a big production," she said, and that's even before the magician.

There must be lessons to be gleaned from an organizational master like Linda Horgan, which is why we paid her a visit a couple of weeks ago.

The excursion began with an important errand: a swing into Birch Hill Market, in the hamlet of Locust Valley, to order two turkeys. Cooking turkey with a single, foolproof method is not enough for Horgan. She cooks one bird in the "deconstructed" mode popularized by Julia Child. She oven-roasts another in the traditional fashion primarily just to create the juices that she will gather for the gravy, because she can't tolerate the idea of making gravy too far ahead of time. Then she gives two more turkey breasts a spin on the rotis-

serie.

It would be an understatement to say that she has put time into analyzing this enterprise.

"I have tasted every turkey that's available in this part of Long Island," she said. The ones at Birch Hill qualified as her favorites. She opened the door of the shop and walked up to the counter.

"I'm here for my Thanksgiving order," she said. "What's so special about Thanksgiving at your

crispy shellac of skin. As she placed her order, it became clear that Horgan does not endure a large-scale Thanksgiving dinner by cutting corners. If anything, she derives satisfaction from burrowing deeper into details. She stopped next at Suzie Cakez Cupcakes, a new Bayville bakery, because she believes that the owner of the place, Susan Rust, expresses the proper (precise and traditional) approach to biscotti.

of planks of biscotti that will most likely be consumed with coffee when everyone in the house has already reached a stupor, how do you avoid becoming mired in reedy swamps of information overload? Horgan's answer? Spreadsheets. "I use Excel to manage this thing," she said. "And it has doubled in the last four years. So I'm kind of nervous about the next four years. Does that mean I'm going to have 80 people?"

ways fighting me for putting in vermouth."

Gravy seems to be Horgan's top challenge — a challenge that intensified this year when six quarts of homemade chicken stock went down the drain after her house lost power in Hurricane Sandy.

"I would love for somebody to make a decent gravy that I could buy and pass off as my own," she said. But prefab gravy never meets her standards.

"Sometimes it's just way too salty," she said. "Sometimes it tastes like dishwater. And probably it just doesn't taste like home. Probably that's really it."

Naturally, people bring food to Horgan's Thanksgiving as well — broccoli casserole, crab dip, a Polish dish of cucumbers in sour cream, baked Brie, sweet potatoes, various pies. She assigns the tasks, stuffs and cooks the birds, makes the dressing, prepares four of the appetizers, bakes a cheesecake.

She sets up the bar, rents the tables and chairs, sets the tables, stacks the china, polishes the silver, arranges the dessert buffet.

"It's a bounty," she said. Enough of a bounty that she instructs the crowd to bring along plenty of empty plastic containers that can be enlisted in an airlift of leftovers. (The invitations go out in September.) Enough of a bounty that the numbers on that spreadsheet tell a complex story of their own: 34 serving dishes, 12 glass serving dishes, 11 platters, 39 salad plates, 30 shrimp forks, 30 salad forks, five gravy boats, four breadbaskets, five brandy glasses, four cake knives.

"My father was really well-organized," she said. "When he died, I could tell you what he spent for gas on his vacation in 1952." Or maybe it's because she makes a point of divvying up the primary cooking tasks among three people: herself; her brother, Mark Jozefowski; and her cousin's husband, Kevin Walsh. Even so, delegation can lead to friction.

She and Walsh have, at times, disagreed on the flavor and correct viscosity of gravy. An annual highlight comes courtesy of a cousin named Paul, whom Horgan refers to as "the belligerent magician." □



Linda Horgan, who is hosting nearly 40 people for Thanksgiving, with the family silverware, crystal and crockery in Bayville, N.Y., Nov. 20, 2012. If you find yourself in a state of panic as you prepare for Thanksgiving cooking, think of Horgan and her 40 or so guests!

(Joshua Bright/The New York Times)

house?" Tom De Angelis, the owner of the store, asked dryly.

"I'm having 40 people this year," she said with equal dryness and with no detectable flinch.

De Angelis sells birds that he secures from a private farm in North Carolina. If Horgan has done the work of extensive poultry scouting around Long Island, he appears to have done a similar thing on a national scale.

"I've been in the business 30 years," he said. "I've tried every turkey on the market, and this is by far the best." The North Carolina turkey comes with strips of salty fatback that are meant to be laid upon the breast of the roasting turkey to season the meat and foster a

"No mixer allowed," Rust said, explaining that the recipe had originated with her Italian grandmother. "It all has to be done by hand. Butter's key. They're not good for you." Horgan ordered three dozen.

She brought a small bag of the biscotti home to sample after lunch, too, but upon surveying them on her kitchen counter, Horgan realized that in their most ideal iteration, Rust's biscotti should be narrower.

"When her grandmother cuts them, they're half the size," she said. "I'll have to talk to her about that. Because then they're crunchy on all sides."

When the planning of Thanksgiving reaches such a granular level that there is contemplation of the width

Really, though, she didn't convey nervousness. Maybe it's because a fondness for systems runs in the family.

"My father was really well-organized," she said. "When he died, I could tell you what he spent for gas on his vacation in 1952." Or maybe it's because she makes a point of divvying up the primary cooking tasks among three people: herself; her brother, Mark Jozefowski; and her cousin's husband, Kevin Walsh.

Even so, delegation can lead to friction.

She and Walsh have, at times, disagreed on the flavor and correct viscosity of gravy.

"He's always accusing me of making more like French gravy," she said. "He's al-